GABON 0 Vol. I

1

DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD [NIXON PROJECT]

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DOCUMENT TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE OR CORRESPONDENTS	DATE	RESTRICTION
3A	Report	Biography	@ 6/73	B
4	Memo	Wright to Haig	2/22/72	B
7	Report	Biography	@ 10/69	B
26	Telegram 501	Libreville to SecState	4/5/70	B
48	Telegram 42663	SecState to Libreville	3/13/72	B

FILE GROUP TITLE: NSC

BOX NUMBER: 737

FOLDER TITLE: (1)

RESTRICTION CODES

A. Release would violate a Federal statute or Agency Policy.
B. National security classified information.
C. Pending or approved claim that release would violate an individual's rights.
D. Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a libel of a living person.
E. Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information.
F. Release would disclose investigatory information compiled for law enforcement purposes.
G. Withdrawn and return private and personal material.
H. Withdrawn and returned non-historical material.

Memo's & Misc.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

(1824)

CONFIDENTIAL

May 6, 1974

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: Hal Horan HH

SUBJECT: Sale of DC-8 to Gabon Thanks BS

In 1972 we sold a DC-8 to the Government of Gabon which we later discovered was being utilized in Rhodesian trade, contrary to assurances we had received, and in contravention of the UN sanctions.

Gabon's President Bongo now desires to acquire another DC-8 for his personal travel and for commercial purposes other than trade with Rhodesia. In an effort to reduce the political costs of such a sale, the Department of State decided to seek the views of the Organization of African Unity, which had complained to us officially about the use of the first DC-8. The OAU Secretariat decided to send our inquiry to General Gowon, as OAU President, for action, and that is where the matter stands.

At some point in this scenario, through error, the question of the sale of an additional DC-8 to Bongo was reported to the Secretary in the African Bureau's daily activity report, but without fully briefing the Secretary that it had been decided to clear the sale with the OAU. The Secretary responded with the decision to sell the plane if it was legal to do so. State has now gone back to the Secretary and given him a fuller briefing. Since the Secretary has become involved in this manner, I wanted you to be aware of the problem. Attached, should you want more detailed information, is the latest briefing cable sent the Secretary.

Attachment

State's ToSec 241, May 4, from Don Easum.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXDIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 4035

PAGE 01 STATE 092316

42
ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY L/AF:BKHUFFMAN:CHG
APPROVED BY AF - AMB. EASUM
AF/C - MR. COHEN
S:I SEAGLEBURGER
S/S - MR. GAMMON

037916

5

CLIFT
COOPER
ELLIOTT
FROEBE
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KENNEDY
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OBER
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092316

EXDIS TOSEC 241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, GB
SUBJECT: GABONESE DESIRE TO PURCHASE SECOND DC-8

TOSEC FROM EASUM

1. FOLLOWING IS BACKDROP OF LEGAL AND OAU CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING DECISION ON SALE OF SECOND DC-8 TO GABON.

2. PRESIDENT BONGO REQUESTED FIRST DC-8 IN 1972 FOR HIS OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND COMMERCIAL USE. EXPORT LICENSE ISSUED BY COMMERCE WAS SPECIFICALLY CONDITIONED ON RECEIPT OF ASSURANCES FROM GABONESE CONSIGNEE QUOTE AFFRETAIR UNQUOTE THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED IN RHODESIA TRADE. SUCH ASSURANCES REPRESENTED LEGITIMATE USG DEMAND IN VIEW OF A) SANCTIONS PROHIBITION AGAINST A SALE THAT WOULD PROMOTE RHODESIAN TRADE, AND B) REPORTS DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED THAT LINKED AFFRETAIR WITH RHODESIAN INTERESTS.

3. COMMERCE ALSO INFORMED GOG THAT US POSITION ON LICENSES FOR FUTURE AIRCRAFT OR SPARE PARTS WOULD REFLECT GABONESE

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

EXDIS

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 092316

COMPLIANCE WITH FOREGOING ASSURANCES.

4. APPROPRIATE WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM GABONESE COMPANY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVEYED TO USG THROUGH GOG, HAVING BEEN ENDORSED BY GABONESE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT BONGO.

5. FOLLOWING CONSUMMATION OF SALE, WE RECEIVED RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT AIRCRAFT NOT ONLY BEING USED IN RHODESIA TRAFFIC BUT ACTUALLY OWNED BY RHODESIAN COMPANY USING AFFRETAIR AS FRONT. MISUSE OF PLANE GENERATED ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT AND FORMAL NOTES TO USG FROM UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND OAU EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SALE. PLANE'S USE AND OWNERSHIP IS SUBJECT OF ONGOING COMMERCE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION WHICH TO DATE HAS RESULTED IN DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR SPARE PARTS. COMMERCE HAS ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM UNTESTED SOURCE THAT SECOND DC-8 REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT BONGO WOULD ALSO BE RHODESIAN-OWNED. COMMERCE CONSIDERS THIS INFORMATION ALONE INSUFFICIENT TO PROHIBIT SALE BUT MAY BE ABLE CORROBORATE IT THROUGH CONTINUED INVESTIGATION NOW UNDERWAY. SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO RHODESIAN CONTROLLED ENTERPRISE EVEN IF LOCATED IN GABON CLEARLY PROHIBITED BY SANCTIONS RESOLUTION AND U.S. LAW.

6. DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTERED FOLLOWING FIRST SALE SUGGEST CAUTION CONCERNING BONGO'S REQUEST FOR SECOND AIRCRAFT ON SAME RATIONALE (I.E. OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND COMMERCIAL USE). TO BUY U.S. ADDITIONAL TIME PENDING COMPLETION OF COMMERCE INVESTIGATION AND IN VIEW OF POSSIBLY COMPETING PRESSURES FROM GABON AND OAU, WE DECIDED AFFORD AFRICANS OPPORTUNITY TO SORT PROBLEM OUT AMONG THEMSELVES. WITH BONGO'S CONCURRENCE WE REFERRED ISSUE TO OAU AND ARE ADVISED THAT GOWON NOW CONSIDERING IT IN CAPACITY AS OAU CHAIRMAN.

7. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEFER ACTION UNTIL OAU RESPONDS TO OUR INQUIRY OR DECLINES TO DO SO. IF NO OBJECTION RECEIVED FROM OAU, WE WOULD CONTEMPLATE APPROVING SALE UNLESS COMMERCE ESTABLISHES THAT SALE WOULD BE ILLEGAL.

RUSH

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

VIA LDX
NSC-3510

CONFIDENTIAL

July 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting with President Bongo of Gabon (S/S 7310549)

The President has agreed to a 30-minute office meeting with President Bongo, and we will let you know as soon as we have a date and time.

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

3510

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ACTION

June 27, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

SUBJECT: Schedule Proposal for President Bongo of Gabon

Secretary Rogers has recommended that the President agree to meet with President Bongo of Gabon between July 30 and August 10 (Tab A).

The schedule proposal for your signature at Tab I would forward the Rogers memorandum and recommend the President agree to meet with President Bongo for half an hour on a date of the President's convenience between July 30 and August 10. President Bongo will receive an honorary degree at Duquesne University between 1 and 10 August. However, before selecting a definite date for Duquesne, he would like to know if, and when, the President can see him. For this reason there is some urgency in replying to President Bongo.

A dependable friend of the U.S., President Bongo is staunchly pro-West and pro-free enterprise. The U.S. has $200 million invested in Gabon. A brief courtesy visit will indicate to President Bongo and the Gabonese that we value our friendly relations and commercial ties with Gabon. President Bongo is not expected to raise any substantive issues with the President.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the schedule proposal at Tab I.

3510

July 10, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID PARKER

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis

SUBJECT: President's Meeting with President Bongo of Gabon

President Bongo will be arranging his schedule around the President's meeting. We would appreciate your giving us a date and time, which could be passed along. He plans to be here between July 30 and August 10.

cc: Mr. Horan

Gen. Scowcroft

3510

HE WHITE HOUSE
ITUATION ROOM

TIME SENT

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

'73 JUL 10 PM 7:06

HITE HOUSE LDX NR 882

IA _____ DIA/G _____
TATE X DIA/H _____
MCC _____ DASA _____
NMCC _____ NPIC _____
SA _____

NUMBER OF PAGES 1

ROM: J W DAVIS

O: TED ELIOT

DESCRIPTION/COMMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 10 PM 7 12

ECEIVED
Y: D.E. Woodell

DATE/TIME:

S/S 7310549

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

June 25, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Private Visit of President Bongo of Gabon

Duquesne University in Pittsburgh has invited President Bongo of Gabon to receive an honorary degree on a date of his choosing between August 1 and 10, 1973. President Bongo has accepted the invitation, but before selecting a date would like to request an appointment to call on you at your convenience between July 30 and August 10.

It would be advantageous to U.S. interests if you could receive Bongo. He has been anxious to meet you since early in your first term. American business investments in Gabon, especially in mineral and petroleum extraction, are extensive and growing rapidly. The largest American investor in Gabon, United States Steel, will show its appreciation for the friendly investment climate in that country by giving a formal dinner for Bongo in Pittsburgh the same evening he is honored by Duquesne.

Bongo is staunchly pro-West and pro-free enterprise. He is one of our most dependable friends in Africa. If you receive him it would demonstrate that we appreciate loyal support from small countries as well as large ones.

William P. Rogers

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Decontrol August 30, 1973
or after visit announced

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3510

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
Date: JUN 2 1973
FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
VIA: David N. Parker

MEETING: President Albert Bernard Bongo of Gabon

DATE: Between July 30 and August 10, 1973
[President Bongo will receive an honorary degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh between 1 and 10 August. Before selecting a definite time and date for the Duquesne ceremony, he wishes to know if, and when, you can see him.]

PURPOSE: To demonstrate we value our friendship and commercial ties with Gabon.

FORMAT: Oval Office, 30 minutes

PRESS COVERAGE: To be announced; press photo opportunity

STAFF: Henry A. Kissinger

RECOMMEND: Secretary Rogers (Tab A)

BACKGROUND: President Bongo has twice invited you, in December 1971 and again this May, to visit Gabon. It would be advantageous to United States interests if you could meet briefly with President Bongo: American investments in Gabon are now worth about $200 million and growing (the U.S. Steel Corporation imports all its manganese from Gabon). President Bongo is staunchly pro-West, pro-free enterprise and one of our most dependable friends in Africa. He is not expected to raise any substantive issues with you.

Secretary Rogers recommends, and I concur, that you agree to meet briefly with President Bongo.

APPROVE_____ DISAPPROVE_____

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC MO	DOC DA	RECD MO	RECD DA	RECD HR	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
6	25	6	25	15	3310 B	Kennedy

LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES ✓ FROM: ROGERS ✓ UNCLAS _____ NO FORN _____ NODIS _____

KISSINGER _____ RICHARDSON _____ LOU ✓ EYES ONLY _____ EXDIS _____

SCOWCROFT _____ SCHLESINGER _____ C _____ CODEWORD _____

ELIOT _____ S _____ SENSITIVE _____

TS _____

SUBJECT: Requests appt w/ Pres for Pres Bongo of Gabon between Aug 1 - 10, 1973

REFERENCE: S/S 7310549 OTHER LDX 892 NOT XEROXED _____

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK (SCOWCROFT)		✓	
STAFF SECRETARY (Farrar)		✓	
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			
EUROPE / CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
NET ASSESSMENT GROUP			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING	✓		✓
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )

MEMO FOR PRES. w/ SP ..... (✓)

REPLY FOR _____ ( )

APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )

MEMO _____ TO _____ ..... ( )

RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )

JOINT MEMO ..... ( )

REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ ( )

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )

CONCURRENCE ..... ( )

DUE DATE: (6/30)

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
6/27		HAK	X	Sgn SP to Parker (7/02)	
7/02		Parker, D	D	HAK sgd SP to Parker (7/10)	Kennedy, Farrar, Horn, Scowcroft
7/10		Parker, D	D	Davis sgd memo to Parker	
7/11			C	Davis sgd memo to Eliot	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____ NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION) _____

OR RECORD COMMENT:) _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____ JOINED BY LOG # _____

SEE # _____ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X

JUL 3 1973

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D ADC BY _____

CYS FOR) SA _____

) HP _____

ORIG) WH _____

TO) PA X

) SF _____

) NS _____

) EP _____

DESTROY) DY _____

★ GPO: 1973—489-668

THE WHITE HOUSE 3149

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President concurs with your opinion and has requested that you inform the Government of the Gabonese Republic that the appointment of Mr. Vincent Mavoungou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the United States would be agreeable to the Government of the United States.

Henry A. Kissinger

Dispatched 6/12/73 (rb)

3149

6/11/73

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President concurs with your opinion and has requested that you inform the Government of the Gabonese Republic that the appointment of Mr. Vincent Mavoungou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the United States would be agreeable to the Government of the United States.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Office of Chief of Protocol/State
General Scowcroft
~~NSC Files w/incoming~~
WH Files (Roberts) w/incoming (orig)
WH Central Files w/incoming (cy)
HAK chron.

ODay:mm
June 11, 1973

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3149

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

June 11, 1973

FOR: Jeanne Davis

FROM: Richard T. Kennedy

SUBJECT: Agrement - Vincent Mavoungou - Ambassador to the US from the Gabonese Republic

Attached is a memorandum from Dr. Kissinger to the Secretary of State concurring in the appointment of Vincent Mavoungou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the United States.

Att.

7310166

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1973

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Dear Mr. President:

The Government of the Gabonese Republic has inquired whether our Government agrees to the appointment of Vincent Mavoungou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Gabonese Republic to the United States. A biography of Mr. Mavoungou is enclosed. A thorough review of United States Government records reveals no grounds for objection.

I believe this appointment would be satisfactory. If you concur, I shall be pleased to inform the Government of the Gabonese Republic.

Respectfully,

William P. Rogers

Enclosure:
Biography.

The President,
The White House.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PRESERVATION COPY

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT
DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

ITEM REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER

A RESTRICTED DOCUMENT OR CASE FILE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEM REMOVED AND THE REASON FOR ITS REMOVAL, CONSULT DOCUMENT ENTRY NUMBER 3A ON EITHER THE DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD (GSA FORM 7279 OR NA FORM 1421) OR NARA WITHDRAWAL SHEET (GSA FORM 7122) LOCATED IN THE FRONT OF THIS FILE FOLDER.

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PRC _E

DOC MO	DOC DA	RECD MO	RECD DA	RECD HR	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
6	05	6	06	09	3149	Day

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES ✓ KISSINGER ___ SCOWCROFT ___

FROM: ROGERS ✓ RICHARDSON ___ SCHLESINGER ___ ELIOT ___

UNCLAS ___ LOU ✓ C ___ S ___ TS ___

LOG IN/OUT ONLY ___ NO FORN ___ EYES ONLY ___ CODEWORD ___ SENSITIVE ___ NODIS ___ EXDIS ___

SUBJECT: Agrement for Vincent Mavoungou as Gabonese Republic Amb to US

REFERENCE: S/S 7310166 OTHER ___ NOT XEROXED ___

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT			
STAFF SECRETARY			
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (Day, O)	✓		XV
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA			
EUROPE / CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
NET ASSESSMENT GROUP			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING			
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( )
MEMO FOR PRES. ..... (✓)
REPLY FOR ___ ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MEMO ___ TO ___ ..... ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
REFER TO ___ FOR: ___ ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
DUE DATE: (6/12)

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
* follow Agrement procedures.

IF NO ACTION, RETURN W/PROFILE FOR FILES. IF CONVENIENCE CY NEEDED, PLEASE INDICATE: ☐

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
6/11			C	HAK sgd memo to Rogers	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH done NOTIFY ___ & DATE ___
SPECIAL DISPOSITION) ___
OR RECORD COMMENT:) Chief Protocol at State ✓
CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: ___

CROSS REF W/ ___ JOINED BY LOG # ___
SEE # ___ FOR FINAL ACTION & FILING.
SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ✓

JUN 14 1973

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D AOC BY ___

CYS FOR) SA ___
) HP ___
) WH ✓ (cy only)
) PA ✓ (orig.)
) SF ___
) NS ___
) EP ___
DESTROY) DY ___

* GPO: 1973-489-668

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

ITEM REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER

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25031

Gabon

FEB (24064)

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Your Meeting with American Ambassador John A. McKesson, Friday, January 15, 12:00 noon.

Your new Ambassador to Gabon, John A. McKesson, is calling on you at noon, Friday, January 15th. There will be a brief photographic opportunity at the beginning of the meeting.

Ambassador McKesson is 49, from New York City, and a graduate of Columbia. After four years in the U.S. Navy, he entered the Department of State in 1947. He has served in Iceland, Germany, Vietnam, France and Senegal. He was State Department Director for Central Africa at the time of his appointment to Gabon.

He is a Republican and member of Richard Nixon Associates. Ambassador McKesson was your escort officer during your Vice-Presidential visit to Saigon in July, 1956.

Background:

Rich in resources, (Uranium, manganese, iron ore, petroleum and timber), Gabon is one of France's most valued ex-colonies. Protective of their investments and fearful of potential American influence, French interests have at times worked against US-Gabonese relations. Even so, President Bongo is strongly pro-West, wants more American aid, and has exchanged correspondence with you about aiding a major railroad. U.S. Steel has a $50 million stake in manganese and Bethlehem intends to invest heavily in iron ore. (Background Notes with a map of Gabon are attached.)

Talking Points:

1. Ask Ambassador McKesson about Gabon's economic potential.

2. Ask if President Bongo of Gabon finds our current relations satisfactory.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

(25031)

SENT TO PRES.

ACTION

January 14, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

FROM: Mel Levine ML

SUBJECT: Talking Points for the President's Meeting with American Ambassador John A. McKesson

RECOMMENDATION:

That you initial the attached talker for the President's meeting at noon, Friday, January 15th, with our Ambassador to Gabon, John A. McKesson.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE ROUTING AND CONTROL PROFILE

NUMBER	MO	DA	HR
25031	01	13	17

DOCUMENT SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIP.

TO: PRES _____ HAK X

FROM: ELIOT _____ ROGERS _____ LAIRD _____ Wright

CLASSIF: U X C _____ LOU _____ S _____ TS _____

EXDIS _____ NODIS _____ EYES ONLY _____ RES DATA _____ CODEWORD _____ SENSITIVE _____ PARIS MTG _____ NO FORN

DOC DATE: 01/13

SUBJECT: Talking points for Pres Mtg w Amer Amb McKesson (Gabon) 01/15

ENCLOSURES: ( ) ( ) NOT XEROXED FOR SUSPENSE FILE

SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

NAME:

	ACTION	INFO	RCD CY FOR:
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG			
STAFF SECRETARY			
DIR, SECRETARIAT			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA			
EUROPE/CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
PLANNING GROUP			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK ( )
MEMO TO PRESIDENT ( )
REPLY FOR HAK SIGNATURE ( )
REPLY FOR PRES SIGNATURE ( )
MEMO _____ TO _____ ( )
RECOMMENDATIONS ( )
JOINT MEMO ( )
APPROPRIATE ACTION ( )
ANY ACTION NECESSARY ( )
CONCURRENCE ( )

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)

MICROFILM DATA
DO ✓
INIT
DATE 2/17

INTERNAL ROUTING

DATE	FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
01/13	Wright	HAK	Pres for Info
01/13		Wright	for further action
~~1/14~~	~~FR~~	~~MC~~	
01/14	WRIGHT	HAK	Sign memo to Pres
1-15	HAK	Pres	Info

REC'D FROM _____ ON _____ FOR FILE.
NO INDICATION OF ORIGINATOR OR ADDRESSEE'S FOLLOW UP ACTION, DISTR. OR DISTRIBUTION. ____

ORIG) NSC ✓
TO) PAF ✓
WHC
SUBF

DISPOSITION

DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO

NOTIFY:

COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE)

NSC FEB 6 1971 _____ STAFF APPROVAL
PAF _____ _____ HAK APP'L
WHC _____ _____ HAK MARGINALIA
SUBF _____ _____ NS3 FORM REQUIRED

★ GPO: 1970—385-803

4865

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 12, 1969

Dear Dick:

Your thoughtful note acknowledging the photograph sounds as if you are thoroughly enjoying your assignment. But I know it's not all sunlit sand or the challenges of shooting par on a course hacked out of the jungle.

Your alert reporting from your special vantage point on the Biafran tragedy has been most valuable. Keep up the good work.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Richard Funkhouser
American Ambassador
Libreville, Gabon

1865

Dear Dick

Your thoughtful note acknowledging the photograph sounds as if you are thoroughly enjoying your assignment. But I know it's not all sunlit sand or the challenges of shooting par on a course hacked out of the jungle.

Your alert reporting from your special vantage point on the Biafran tragedy has been most valuable. Keep up the good work.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

RN

The Honorable Richard Funkhouser
American Ambassador
Libreville, Gabon

RN-RMorris:mm
12/10/69 (rev.)

December 11, 1969

MEMO FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM : Roger Morris

SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Ambassador Funkhouser (in Gabon)

Attached is a rewrite requested by HAK of the Presidential letter to Ambassador Funkhouser.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the attached letter for signature.

RGH:nm:12/11/69

"865"

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL December 4, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER ACTION

FROM: Roger Morris Roger

SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Ambassador Funkhouser (in Gabon)

Approved for Hay for Pres sig

Dick Funkhouser (apparently a personal friend of the President) has written an informal note acknowledging an inscribed photograph of the First Family.

The proposed Presidential reply is a pat on the back for Funkhouser's useful reporting from Gabon as well as an informal acknowledgement.

James Keogh has approved the proposed letter.

Recommendation: That you sign the attached memorandum to the President.

Note letter — Have it in a way he can show it Washington

HK

Attachment

Proposed memo to the President.

4865

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

ACTION

December 12, 1969

FROM: Henry Kissinger

SUBJECT: Reply to Ambassador Richard Funkhouser in Gabon

At Tab B is a personal note from Ambassador Funkhouser, thanking you for a personally inscribed photograph of the First Family. Funkhouser also points out:

-- Gabon's pro-Western stance in Africa, its relative economic stability, and President Bongo's desire to meet you.

-- Your apt reading of the American mood in your November 3 speech on Vietnam.

Funkhouser jokes about his leisurely pace in Gabon. But Libreville is a major depot of the French arms supply to Biafra and his reporting on those activities, as well as alert contact with French and other sources about conditions inside Biafra, adds substantially to our often scanty intelligence on the Nigerian civil war.

At Tab A is a proposed reply which commends this reporting job, as well as acknowledging the thank-you note. The letter has been cleared by James Keogh.

Recommendation: That you sign the letter at Tab A to Ambassador Richard Funkhouser in Gabon.

Attachments

Tab A - Proposed Presidential letter to Ambassador Funkhouser.

Tab B - Ambassador Funkhouser's letter to the President, November 15.

A

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Dick:

Your thoughtful note acknowledging the photograph sounds as if you are thoroughly enjoying your assignment. But I know it's not all sunlit sand or the challenges of shooting par on a course hacked out of the jungle.

Your alert reporting from your special vantage point on the Biafran tragedy has been most valuable. Keep up the good work ~~as well as the relaxation.~~

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Richard Funkhouser
American Ambassador
Libreville, Gabon

B

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

5865

The President

The White House

CONFIDENTIAL

5865

CONFIDENTIAL

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 15, 1969

Dear Mr. President:

Phyllis and I were delightfully surprised to receive this morning in the pouch the Presidential family color photograph with your personal signature and flattering inscription. I fear the maximum contribution I can make in this "lotus-land" to my country and President is to make sure Gabon is never inscribed on the White House list of problems.

The only potential problem is that tough,

34-year old President Bongo and his "swinging," 26-year old wife Josephine are enthusiastic admirers of the Nixon family, as Mrs. Nixon knows, and seek almost desperately, like so many others, to meet you one day. Gabon was never invited by previous Administrations, perhaps because it is firmly on our side already; its books are balanced, Bongo loves private industry, and it's one of the last countries to refuse entry to Moscow, Peking or Havana!

Again, your gesture fills the Funkhouser family

with pride. We will hand it down to our children. Bruce was a buddy of David's for three years at Exeter.

Yours gratefully,

Richard Funkhouser

Richard Funkhouser
Ambassador to Gabon

P.S. Perhaps future generations of Funkhousers will even more appreciate your Vietnam speech November 3. It was a great statement. You read the American people, including this family, far better than the noisemakers. Even Bongo commented.

P.P.S. Roger and Louise assure us they will visit Libreville as soon as the guest house is finished. We offer palms, sunlit sand, surf and a 9-hole golf course hacked out of the jungle where the rough is so bad we lose the caddies. After six years of battling Khrushchev and De Gaulle, it's delightful to lie on the bank for a moment reflecting while the crises of foreign affairs roar by on the horizon. And get paid for it!

CONFIDENTIAL

4099

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President concurs with your opinion and has requested that you inform the Government of the Republic of Gabon that the appointment of Mr. Gaston Robert Bouckat-Nziengui as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Republic of Gabon would be agreeable to the Government of the United States.

Henry A. Kissinger

Dispatched 10/31/69 Outside Rept.

OCT 31 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The President concurs with your opinion and has requested that you inform the Government of the Republic of Gabon that the appointment of Mr. Gaston Robert Bouckat-Nziengui as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Republic of Gabon would be agreeable to the Government of the United States.

Henry A. Kissinger

RMorris:mm
October 30, 1969

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1969

FOR: Bill Watts

FROM: Roger Morris RM

SUBJECT: Agrement for new Ambassador to US from Gabon

I recommend that we concur with the Secretary of State's recommendation on the agrement for Mr. Bouckat-Nziengui as Ambassador to the US from Gabon.

Attachment

4099

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

16657

October 29, 1969

SECRET ENCLOSURE

Dear Mr. President:

The Department has received a request through the Embassy at Libreville inquiring whether our Government agrees to the appointment of Mr. Gaston Robert Bouckat-Nziengui as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Gabon to the United States. A biography of Mr. Bouckat-Nziengui is enclosed.

A thorough review of all United States Government material reveals no grounds for objection. I believe this appointment would be satisfactory. If you concur, I shall be pleased to inform the Government of the Republic of Gabon of your approval.

Respectfully,

William P. Rogers

Enclosure:

Biography.

The President,

The White House.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

DOCUMENT CONTROL RECORD

ITEM REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER

A RESTRICTED DOCUMENT OR CASE FILE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS FILE FOLDER. FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEM REMOVED AND THE REASON FOR ITS REMOVAL, CONSULT DOCUMENT ENTRY NUMBER 7A ON EITHER THE DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL RECORD (GSA FORM 7279 OR NA FORM 1421) OR NARA WITHDRAWAL SHEET (GSA FORM 7122) LOCATED IN THE FRONT OF THIS FILE FOLDER.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

April 30, 1969

HAK:

In the attached, State has employed what I call the "slot-machine theory" of the NSC staff. The Gabonese rang in the request for an appointment with Mrs. Nixon at the last minute, and State glibly passed it on expecting an instantaneous "yes" to satisfy their rude clients. As indicated in the attached memo, I recommend Mrs. Nixon turn down this request as an object lesson both to State and the Africans.

Roger

Roger Morris

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: Dick Moose
Inform State
Mrs. Nixon regrets
Per Lucy Winchester
5/6/69

Bob

State (S/S-Bob)
Informed
5/6, 3:00 pm
JWD

367

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Wednesday, April 30, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mrs. Lucy Winchester
The White House

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger HK

SUBJECT: Proposed Call on the First Lady by Madame Josephine Bongo, Wife of the President of Gabon

Madame Bongo arrives in the United States tonight for an informal two-week visit. The Gabonese Government has officially requested a courtesy call on Mrs. Nixon.

Gabon is a relatively prosperous little country on the coast of West Africa. U.S. investments there are substantial. But Gabon has long been under the thumb of the French, who were the former colonial power and continue as the principal donor of aid and technical help. Mrs. Bongo's visit here is one aspect of a general effort on the part of the Gabonese to broaden their relations (and their sources of aid) beyond the old dependence on France. President Bongo is coming here in the fall in connection with the UN General Assembly, and the President has tentatively approved a private visit for him at that time.

Mrs. Bongo is 27, described by our Embassy as bright and outgoing, and is generally interested in children's health and educational activities. She apparently speaks only French.

The State Department recommends this appointment on the grounds of our over-all good relations with Gabon. I agree a call on the First Lady would be a nice gesture, but it is by no means essential. The Gabonese have made the request very much at the last minute, giving us the polite excuse of a full schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

I am not enthusiastic about this request, if only because its tardiness shows a rather typically African disregard for the First Family's calendar. My own view is that Mrs. Nixon should decline, with State reminding the Gabonese that some advance notice would have given their request a better chance.

1819

1. ~~Francis~~
2. R.H.

6582

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 28, 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Visit to the U.S. of Josephine Bongo, Wife of the President of Gabon

The Department has been notified of the impending visit to the United States of Madame Josephine Bongo, wife of President Albert Bongo of the Republic of Gabon. She will arrive in the United States on or about Wednesday, April 30, with a delegation composed of the wives of the Vice President and two ministers, in addition to her private secretary, who is the wife of another high government official, and other staff. The Gabonese Government has requested that a call at the White House be arranged in order that Mrs. Bongo may meet Mrs. Nixon.

Gabon is an economically healthy country, with considerable natural resources, substantial U.S. private investment, and one of the highest per capita national incomes in Africa. Mrs. Bongo's visit is related to an overall effort on the part of the Gabonese Government to attract international investment capital to the financing of the Owendo-Booue railway project, considered by the GOG to be the key to its continued economic progress. President Bongo will probably make a private visit to the United States in the fall, when he is expected to call on the President. It would be appropriate, and in the interest of the United States, if Mrs. Bongo and the other four ladies of the party could be received at

the White House during the course of their stay in the United States, which is expected to last about two weeks.

The young (age 27) Mrs. Bongo is a comparative rarity among the wives of African chiefs of state, many of whom do not take any part in the public activities of their husbands. With a bright and outgoing personality, she participates openly in the social and political projects of her husband, who is 33 years old. The Bongos met in Brazzaville some years ago, were married there, and now have two boys, aged eight and ten. Mrs. Bongo takes an active role in children's health and educational activities in Gabon. It has been reported that she has taken a Biafran child, one of the over two thousand being cared for in Gabon, into her home for special care and comfort.

The Department recommends that Mrs. Bongo and the other members of her party be received by Mrs. Nixon during the course of their visit to the United States. Although it has been indicated from Libreville that Mrs. Bongo would be willing to make Washington her last stop in the United States, because of the short advance warning given us, the Department feels that the convenience of the group led by Mrs. Bongo would be better served if the White House call were made early in the visit.

for John P. Walsh
Acting Executive Secretary

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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

Department of State TELEGRAM

'74 APR 25 PM 8:56

CONFIDENTIAL 3211

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00503 251254Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
061112

P 251206Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5365

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0503

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, US, GB, OAU
SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE PURCHASE DC-8

FOR ASSISTANT SEC EASUM FROM AMBASSADOR

1. MINISTER OF STATE RAWIRI INFORMED ME CONFIDENTIALLY TODAY THAT SECGEN OAU NZO EKANGAKI HAD INFORMED GOG BY PHONE THAT OAU AGREEABLE TO SALE OF DC-8. NZO EKANGAKI WILL ARRIVE LIBREVILLE APRIL 27 ON CONFIDENTIAL REPEAT CONFIDENTIAL MISSION TO CONFIRM THIS AGREEMENT IN WRITING. RAWIRI SAID PRESIDENT BONGO HAD ASKED RAWIRI TO PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO ME IMMEDIATELY SO THAT I COULD ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND HELP EXPEDITE SALE.

2. I THANKED RAWIRI FOR INFO BUT STRESSED THAT USG WOULD NEED WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM OAU BEFORE BEING ABLE TO CONSIDER MATTER. RAWIRI SAID THAT NZO EKANGAKI SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR USG WHEN HE CAME HERE THIS WEEKEND. RAWIRI STRESSED GREAT IMPORTANCE BONGO ATTACHES TO OBTAINING PLANE SOONEST.

3. LETTER FROM ME TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM GIVING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON MY CONVERSATION WITH BONGO IN NEW YORK POUCHED APRIL 21 (REGISTRATION NO. 1377606) AND SHOULD ARRIVE WASHINGTON MORNING APRIL 26 BY DIPLOMATIC COURIER ROUTE 300.
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 110

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00735 200914Z

13
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

122768

R 200830Z OCT 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4339

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0735

EXDIS

SUBJ: DC-8

REF: STATE 186683, STATE 187158

TRUST HOLD-UP ON DC-8 SALE S HAS BEEN RESOLVED AS GOG ASSUMING MATTER PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. EMBASSY CAN REQUEST WRITTEN STATEMENT IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. LONGER DECISION DELAYED HOWEVER THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WILL BE TO EXPLAIN ANY REFUSAL OF SALE OR ANY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES.
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 135

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00246 301016Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
---------- 051532

R 300918Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4044

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0246

EXDIS

REF: STATE 052041

DELIVERED ORAL MESSAGE REQUESTED REFTEL TO PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 29. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION.

GP-3
MCKESSON

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 154

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00242 301015Z

10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
---------- 051512

R 300900Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0242

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 051755 (B) STATE 051895

1. SAW PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 29 AND GAVE HIM TRANSLATION MESSAGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY. PRESIDENT NODDED SLOWLY AS HE READ IT AND THANKED ME FOR IT. I STRESSED OUR GENUINE SURPRISE AT OUTCOME AND BONGO SEEMED SATISFIED THAT WE HAD DEALT SQUARELY WITH HIM. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, AS HE HAD TOLD ME HE WOULD, HE HAD SENT MININFO MARTIN BONGO WITH A PERSONAL LETTER TO NGOUABI. LATTER HAD REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL PARALLEL APPROACHES, INCLUDING ONE FROM TOMBALBAYE, AND THAT AS MUCH AS HE WOULD LIKE TO PLEASE BONGO, HE FELT HE COULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION NOW. NGOUABI ALSO IMPLIED APPROACHES IN BRAZZAVILLE FROM KINSHASA, CERTAIN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES AND OTHER WESTERN SOURCES. NGOUABI ADDED THAT HE WAS TIRED AT THE MOMENT AND COMMENTED FURTHER THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH U.S. WHILE U.S. WAS STILL ASSISTING CONGO (B) OPPONENTS TO HIS REGIME OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY.

2. BONGO COMMENTED TO ME THAT SITUATION IN CONGO FAR FROM STABLE, THAT PROBLEM OF SENTENCES FOR COUP PLOTTERS HAD CAUSED MUCH DISSENTION, AND THAT NGOUABI MAY HAVE FELT HE NEEDED MORE TIME BEFORE MAKING ANY MOVE IN DIRECTION U.S.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00242 301015Z

BONGO SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE SEEING NGOUABI BEFORE LONG EITHER IN LIBREVILLE, BRAZZAVILLE OR FRANCEVILLE AND THAT HE WOULD PURSUE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH HIM AT SUCH TIME. WHEN I MENTIONED LOME OCAM MEETING, BONGO SAID HE HAD NOT YET HEARD WHETHER NGOUABI WOULD BE GOING TO LOME.

3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE CAN COUNT ON BONGO TO PURSUE MATTER WITH NGOUABI IN MANNER HE DEEMS MOST LIKELY TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE.

GP-3
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SECRET 891

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00228 231216Z

12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

---------- 127328

P 231100Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4032
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0228

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 197

1. FONMIN RAWIRI TOLD ME FOLLOWING THIS MORNING: INFOMIN MARTIN BONGO MADE TRIP TO BRAZZAVILLE AND REPORTED BACK THAT NGOUABI HAD SAID HE WAS CONFUSED AND CONCERNED BY NUMBER OF SIMILAR APPROACHES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE TO HIM. NGOUABI INDICATED THAT OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAD MADE PROPOSALS ALONG SAME LINES AS GABON CONCERNING US/CONGO RELATIONS AND THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES HE FELT IT DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM OR MAKE ANY RESPONSE AT ALL. NGOUABI FELT THAT PROBLEM HAD BEEN BADLY PRESENTED AS RESULT OF THIS CONFUSION AND HE INDICATED THAT NO FURTHER ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AT THIS STAGE.

2. RAWIRI, OBVIOUSLY UNDER IMPRESSION WE HAD MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHES THROUGH OTHER AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, WAS VISIBLY UPSET AND ANNOYED OVER MATTER AND FACT BONGO HIMSELF DID NOT CALL ME IN TO PASS ON RESULT OF MARTIN BONGO'S MISSION CLEARLY INDICATES THAT PRESIDENT ALSO HURT AND IRRITATED OVER WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED. RAWIRI DID NOT KNOW IF NGOUABI HAD NAMES ANY COUNTRIES BY SPECULATED THAT NGOUABI MUST HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO CHAD, CAR AND ZAIRE.

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00228 231216Z

3. I EXPRESSED MY SURPRISE AND DISMAY IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS AND ASSURED RAWIRI THAT USG HAD ASKED NO ONE OTHER THAN BONGO TO MADE A DEMARCHE AND HAD HAD NO CONTACT WHATEVER ON SUBJECT WITH ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY EXCEPT FOR ZAIRE WHERE WE INFORMED MOBUTU THAT WE HAD REQUESTED BONGO'S ASSISTANCE AFTER BONGO HAD AGREED TO OUR REQUEST. I QUOTED MOBUTU AS ENDORSING OUR CHOICE OF BONGO AS INTERMEDIARY. I ASSURED RAWIRI THAT WE HAD NOT EVEN HEARD INDIRECTLY ANY INTIMATION THAT ANY OTHER COUNTRY HAD RAISED MATTER OF US RELATIONS WITH NGOUABI AND I WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN ABACK AND APPALLED THAT ANY SUCH THING COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

4. RAWIRI SEEMED TO ACCEPT MY STATEMENTS AND APPEARED SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED. HE SPECULATED THAT SOME LOCAL AFRICAN OR PERHAPS FRENCH OR GERMAN AMBASSADORS IN BRAZZAVILLE MIGHT HAVE RAISED MATTER WITH NGOUABI ON THEIR OWN. IN ANY CASE RAWIRI FELT THAT NOTHING MORE COULD BE DONE FOR ANOTHER MONTH AT LEAST.

5. I HOPE TO SEE PRESIDENT BONGO IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL STRESS TO HIM POINTS I MADE TO RAWIRI. IF I CAN CONVINCE HIM WE HAVE NOT BEEN PLAYING GAMES WITH HIM, I WILL PROPOSE TO HIM THAT HE RAISE MATTER WITH NGOUABI AT LOME APRIL 24 OCAM MEETING. I WILL SUGGEST THAT HE CAN SHOW NGOUABI COPY OF SECRETARY'S LETTER IF NGOUABI STILL ALLEGES TO BE CONFUSED BY MULTIPLICITY OF APPROACHES.

6. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN FURTHERING THIS APPROACH IF SECRETARY COULD SEND MESSAGE TO BONGO THANKING HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS AND ASSURING HIM THAT HE IS ONLY CHANNEL BEING USED BY USG. GP-1
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SECRET 290

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00199 151041Z

17
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
---------- 063199

R 151025Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 199

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 198

AS THINGS MIGHT NOW MOVE RAPIDLY, ASSUME DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR MY DEMARCHE WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. FOR MY OWN BACKGROUND WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE REFRESHER RUN-DOWN ON EVENTS LEADING TO CLOSING OF OUR EMBASSY, SPECIFICALLY DETAILS OF THREE ARRESTS OF AMERICANS. GP-1
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SECRET 283

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00197 151034Z

17
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

063144

P 150905Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4013
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 197

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: STATE 042663

1. SAW PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 14 AND HANDED HIM TRANSLATION SECRETARY'S MESSAGE. AFTER READING IT ATTENTIVELY, HE SAID "D'ACCORD." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD CALL BACK TO LIBREVILLE INFO MINISTER MARTIN BONGO (A COUSIN) WHO CURRENTLY IN FRANCEVILLE AND SEND HIM TO BRAZZAVILLE WITH HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE HE WOULD DRAFT FOR NGOUABI. BONGO ADDED THAT GABONESE EMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE COULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY STAY THERE. I SAID THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE SOON IF HE FELT TIMING APPROPRIATE. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

2. BONGO COMMENTED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT NGOUABI HAD FOUND DOCUMENT AMONG DIAWARA'S PAPERS IMPLICATING CIA. DOCUMENT PURPORTED TO BE CIA ANALYSIS OF EARLIER COUP ATTEMPT BY KIKANGA WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO ORGANIZE COUP IN CONGO. I SAID THAT IF SUCH DOCUMENT HAD SURFACED IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ANOTHER FORGERY. BONGO AGREED BUT SAID HE WAS NOT SURE THAT NGOUABI WOULD REALIZE THIS. BONGO THEN SHOWED ME THREE NEW DOCUMENTS WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM KINSHASA OVER WEEK-END WHICH AGAIN IMPLICATED CIA IN PLANNING COUP IN GABON (SEE SEPTEL).

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00197 151034Z

BONGO COMMENTED THAT DOCUMENTS VERY IMPRESSIVE, WITH SEALS AND STAMPS, BUT HE CONSIDERED THEM FORGERIES AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO REPORT BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON. I THANKED PRESIDENT AGAIN FOR HIS CONFIDENCE IN US AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE WOULD MENTION TO NGOUABI HIS OWN EXPERIENCE WITH FORGED CIA DOCUMENTS. BONGO NODDED.

3. PRESIDENT THEN ASKED IF I HAD ANY GOOD NEWS TO TELL HIM ABOUT OUR CULTURAL CENTER. I SAID I HAD CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON HIS DESIRE TO SEE CULTURAL CENTER IMPROVED AND ENLARGED AND WAS AWAITING A REPLY. HE SAID HE HOPED VERY MUCH WE COULD ANNOUNCE SOMETHING SOON AS EVERYONE NOW WAITING FOR OUR MOVE. GP-1
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SECRET 622

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00185 101715Z

41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

---------- 030747

R 101400Z MAR 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4008
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 185

EXDIS

SUBJECT: U.S.-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 039515; B. LIBREVILLE 183; C. PARIS 4395

1. WHILE RECENT EVENTS IN CONGO PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK BETTER RELATIONS AND WHILE BONGO IS GOOD CHOICE FOR INITIAL CONTACT (FRENCH AMBASSADOR COMMENTED TO ME JUST FEW DAYS AGO ON EXCELLENT PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BONGO AND NGOUABI), I FEEL COMPELLED TO OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. RECENT YHOMBI REFERENCES TO CIA (REF B) TOGETHER WITH ALLEGED REPRESSION BRAZZAVILLE (REF C) AND OBVIOUS NEED FOR NGOUABI TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION WOULD ALL ARGUE FOR SLIGHT DELAY (PERHAPS ONE MONTH) IN PROPOSED DEMARCHE.

3. CHANCES OF BONGO ENERGETICALLY PURSUING MATTER WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY WHICH WOULD BE MORE FLATTERING TO HIM AND CARRY MORE WEIGHT.

4. MOST EFFECTIVE WAY BONGO COULD CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO NGOUABI WOULD BE IN FACE TO FACE MEETING WHICH WOULD PERMIT INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF MATTER. UNLIKELY THAT

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00185 101715Z

MESSAGE CONVEYED THROUGH SOME INTERMEDIARY WOULD BE ANY WHERE NEAR AS EFFECTIVE.

5. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT OCAM LOME MEETING IN LATE APRIL MIGHT PROVIDE ANSWER TO ABOVE THREE POINTS. IF I APPROACHED BONGO WITH MESSAGE IN APRIL IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN FROM MY TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND KINSHASA AND JUST PRIOR TO BONGO'S DEPARTURE FOR LOME, I COULD SAY THAT I HAD HAD MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY ASKED ME TO CONVEY ABOVE REQUEST TO BONGO. ORAL MESSAGE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD CARRY CONSIDERABLY MORE WEIGHT. TIMING WOULD BE BETTER IN TERMS OF NGOUABI'S WILLINGNESS TO ENTERTAIN REQUEST, AND AFFORD BONGO POSSIBILITY OF RAISING MATTER DIRECTLY WITH NGOUABI. ABOVE COURSE WOULD, IN MY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT, OFFER GREATEST CHANCE OF ACCOMPLISHING DESIRED OBJECTIVE.

6. IMMEDIATE DEMARCHE MIGHT ALSO SUCCEED AND I AM, OF COURSE, READY TO MAKE IT IF DEPARTMENT PREFERS.
GP-1
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

W/T

SECRET 064

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00153 281550Z

51
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
---------- 067606

R 281429Z FEB 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3990

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 153

EXDIS

SUBJECT: GABON FORGERY

REF: STATE 029671

1. ACTING SECRETARY'S LETTER DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT BONGO FEBRUARY 26. PRESIDENT WAS PLEASED AND DID NOT QUESTION FACT DOCUMENT WAS FORGERY.

2. IN VIEW BONGO'S STRESS ON SECRECY AND HIS REFERENCE TO CERTAIN ELEMENTS WHICH ARE UNHAPPY OVER IMPROVEMENT OF US-GABONESE RELATIONS, I AM NOT INFORMING FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE AND BELIEVE PREFERABLE THAT FRENCH NOT BE INFORMED. GP-1
MCKESSON

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 658

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00149 281022Z

22
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W

---------- 065258

R 260900Z FEB 72
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3987
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 149

EXDIS

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH CONGO-B

REF: STATE 031348

1. CONCUR THAT NGOUABI PRESS STATEMENT AND RECENT EVENTS IN BRAZZAVILLE OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE CONGOLESE ATTITUDE TOWARD US AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO UNDERTAKE SUGGESTED MISSION.

2. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, TO HOLD OFF SUCH APPROACH SLIGHTLY IN ORDER TO (A) AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF DIRECT LINK WITH RECENT COUP ATTEMPT, (B) AFFORD NGOUABI TIME TO CONSOLIDATE HIS VICTORY OVER LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS, AND (C) GIVE US SOMEWHAT MORE TIME TO ASSESS NEW SITUATION IN BRAZZAVILLE.

3. USE OF BONGO AS CHANNEL (ASSUMING HE AGREEABLE) WOULD PROBABLY INCREASE CHANCES OF GETTING US HEARING FROM NGOUABI OVER APPROACH THROUGH WEST GERMANS. MY GUESS IS THAT BONGO LIKELY TO BE FLATTERED BY SUCH REQUEST AS EVIDENCE OF US RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE, AND ENHANCING HIS ROLE AS CENTRAL AFRICAN STATESMAN.

4. IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE CHANCES OF BONGO FOLLOW-THROUGH,

MESSAGE SHOULD BE FROM SECRETARY (ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT,

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IF POSSIBLE, SINCE ADDRESSED TO CHIEF OF STATE). IT SHOULD SET FORTH PURPOSE OF MY VISIT (TO EXPLORE CONGOLESE ATTITUDE TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US) AND STATE SPECIFICALLY WHAT WE WANT BONGO TO DO (ASK NGOUABI TO RECEIVE ME AND SUGGEST DATE). GP-1
MCKESSON

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Equatorial Guinea

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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SECRET 362

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
066243

P 191835Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3784
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 637

EXDIS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF FRENCH ROLE IN GABON

REF: EMBTEL 636

1. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, FOLLOWING STORY WAS RELATED TO ME BY LOCAL GERMAN DOCTOR WHO CAME TO MY HOUSE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19. HE CLAIMS THAT AT CONSEIL DES MINISTRES MEETING SEPT 18, WIDOW OF GERMAIN M'BA ACCUSED BONGO, TO HIS FACE AND IN FRONT OF WHOLE COUNCIL, OF KILLING HER HUSBAND. ACCORDING THIS SOURCE, WHO SWEARS HIS INFORMATION IS "ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE", BONGO SHOUTED BACK THAT IT WAS "THE AMERICANS" WHO DID IT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY EXPRESSIONS OF DISBELIEF AND INCOMPREHENSION AS TO WHY BONGO WOULD REACT IN THIS FASHION, DOCTOR EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS WITHIN FRENCH GOVERNMENT A "CERTAIN SERVICE" WORKING TO DISCREDIT US OUT OF COMBINATION OF JEALOUSY, LEFTIST LEANINGS, AND FEAR OF US ECONOMIC COMPETITION. HE STATED THIS "SERVICE" HAS BEEN WORKING ON BONGO. I EXPRESSED CONTINUING INCOMPREHENSION, SAYING WE HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH FRENCH HERE AND THAT WE IN NO SENSE IN COMPETITION WITH THEM. DOCTOR STRESSED THAT THIS SERVICE NOT FRENCH GOVERNMENT BUT A GROUP WITHIN FRENCH GOVERNMENT WORKING INDEPENDENTLY OF FRENCH OFFICIAL POLICY.

3. DEPARTMENT AND PARIS MAY BE ABLE TO FIT THESE ALLEGATIONS INTO LARGER CONTEXT. OUR OVERALL CURRENT ESTIMATE OF SITUATION REMAINS THAT EXPRESSED IN REFTEL. GP-1
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SECRET 633

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00611 100923Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 W
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R 100000Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3767
INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 611

EXDIS

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: EMBTEL 610

IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ZAMPETTI ADDED FOLLOWING DETAILS: ACCORDING ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORT, WHICH ALLEGEDLY BASED AT LEAST PARTIALLY ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AMERICAN EMBASSY ROME US CHARGE DJAFFAIRES ERDOS QUOTE WHO HAD GONE MAD UNQUOTE HAD ALERTED GOEG TO PLOT, URGED HARSH MEASURES AGAINST INVADING EXPATRIATES, AND ADVISED GOEG TO ELIMINATE SPANIARDS WHOM HE ALLEGED BEHIND ATTEMPT. I EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT THIS SCENARIO, BUT ZAMPETTI REPEATED THIS VERSION SEVERAL TIMES. GIVEN WHAT HAS ON SHORT ACQUAINTANCE APPEARED TO BE DEFINITE LOQUACIOUS BENT ON ZAMPETTI'S PART, THIS VERSION MAY WELL SURFACE OTHER PLACES IN LIBREVILLE.
GP-1
LYNE

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 IO-13 CPR-04 CIAE-00 INR-08

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SY-03 USSS-00 RSR-01 /080 W
024147

R 070750Z OCT 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3429

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 810

SUBJECT: UN 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: STATE 162809

1. I EXTENDED PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO BONGO AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SHORTLY AFTER HE HAD DELIVERED ANOTHER BLAST AGAINST MEDDLING DIPLOMATS BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. BONGO DECLINED INVITATION, SAYING HE EXPECTED LEAVE U.S. OCTOBER 16 OR 17.
CRIGLER

EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

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SECRET 333

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00802 031225Z

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /046 W
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O 031200Z OCT 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3424

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 802

EXDIS

SUBJECT: BONGO'S ACCUSATIONS AND HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 25 UNGA

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 799
B) LIBREVILLE 800
C) STATE 162234
D) STATE 162809

1. STATE REFTELS RECEIVED HERE JUST AS LIBREVILLE'S REFTELS BEING TRANSMITTED. IN CONTEXT LIBREVILLE MESSAGES, I WOULD OF COURSE APPEAR MOST FOOLISH DELIVERING PRESIDENT NIXON'S DINNER INVITATION TO BONGO JUST NOW.

2. HOWEVER, INFORMATION ON BONGO'S PLANS CONTAINED REFTEL C-- WHICH APPEARS TO BE LATEST WORD AND MORE AUTHORITATIVE THAN ANYTHING I HAVE LATELY BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN--APPEARS INDICATE HE NOT RPT NOT IN PRINCIPLE AVAILABLE FOR OCTOBER 24 OCCASION. THIS IS NOT TO SAY, OF COURSE, HE MIGHT NOT WITH ALACRITY CHANGE HIS PLANS IN ORDER TO ATTEND--ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HEARS HIS CHIEF-OF-STATE COLLEAGUES WILL BE THERE AND THAT SOME MAY SEE PRESIDENT NIXON PRIVATELY DURING WEEK OCTOBER 17-24.

3. WE MIGHT FINESSE THIS ONE BY SIMPLY LEANING ON BONGO'S STATED PLANS AND INDICATING REGRET (PREFERABLY LATER) THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AROUND FOR THE BIG EVENT. IN SUCH EVENT, OF COURSE, WE MAY EXPECT HIM TO BE HOPPING MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHAT HE MISSING. PRESUMABLY HE IS INELIGIBLE IN ANY EVENT, UNDER TERMS REFTEL D, FOR PRIVATE AUDIENCE.

4. MY INCLINATION WOULD BE ISSUE INVITATION--IF AT ALL-ONLY

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ON EVE HIS DEPARTURE FROM LIBREVILLE, I.E. OCTOBER 10.

5. KINDLY INSTRUCT. GP-4
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SECRET 325

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /046 W
000927

O 031025Z OCT 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3423

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 800

EXDIS

DELIVER ACTION OFFICE 0900 HRS OCTOBER 3

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON LATEST ACCUSATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 799

1. IT ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE, IF INDEED TYPICAL OF BONGO'S CURRENT MENTAL STATE, THAT HE SHOULD LAUNCH THIS ATTACK AGAINST US VIRTUALLY ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR UNGA AND PRIVATE TOUR OF US. IT IS CLEAR THAT ONE OF "UNFRIENDLIES" AT PRESIDENCY HAS SUCCEEDED IN EXPLOITING BONGO'S WORRIES ABOUT MANIFOLD DOMESTIC PROBLEMS HE WILL BE LEAVING BEHIND, IN ORDER PREJUDICE ANY CHANCE HIS TRIP MIGHT TURN OUT FRUITFUL. CERTAINLY BONGO HAS PLENTY OF WORRIES RIPE FOR EXPLOITATION:

A. THAT EKOH'S FANG FOLLOWERS WILL REACT VIOLENTLY TO JUDICIAL CHARADE WHICH THIS WEEK PUT EX-MINISTER ON ICE FOR TWENTY YEARS;

B. THAT YOUNG "INTELLECTUALS" INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, WHO CHAFE AT NEO-COLONIALIST TIES WITH FRENCH AND WHO UNDERSTAND BONGO'S MOTIVES IN PROSTITUTING JUDICIAL SYSTEM, WILL BEGIN AGITATING;

C. THAT FRENCH BUSINESSMEN ARE SORE ENOUGH OVER HIS SEVERE PRICE-CUTTING MEASURES AND REAL ESTATE RESTRICTIONS TO BEGIN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE; AND,

D. THAT A.I.D., WORLD BANK, AND OTHER DONORS ARE NOT

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GOING TO COME THROUGH WITH FINANCIAL HELP HE NEEDS TO REALIZE PROJECTS ON WHICH HE HAS STAKED HIS POLITICAL FUTURE.

2. LOCAL FOCCART FRENCH, MEANWHILE, WITH EYE ON MOBUTU'S SUCCESSES IN U.S. AND HIS SUBSEQUENT SLAP AT BELGIANS, HAVE PLENTY ENOUGH REASONS THEIR OWN FOR STIMULATING BONGO'S ANXIETIES JUST NOW. THEY HAVE TOLD GABONESE SO OFTEN WHAT A TREASURE THEIR COUNTRY IS AND HOW FRANCE HELPING PROTECT TREASURE AGAINST COVETOUS OUTSIDERS, THAT THEY ARE OBLIGED CAST SUSPICION AND PERIODICALLY ON OUTSIDERS--USUALLY OURSELVES--IN ORDER JUSTIFY THEIR ROLE HERE. THEY MUST VIEW BONGO'S ILL-TIMED TRIP TO U.S. AS PERFECT OCCASION PROVE TO HIM HOW SINISTER AMERICAN INTENTIONS TOWARD GABON REALLY ARE.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, QUESTION OF APPOINTING NEW AMBASSADOR TO GABON BECOMES CRUCIAL. I HAVE MORE THAN ONCE REPORTED MY MISGIVINGS OVER RUSHING TO NAME NEW FULL-FLEDGED AMBASSADOR, WHO ALMOST CERTAIN TO FIND ON HIS ARRIVAL HERE THAT HE IS MERELY LATEST IN SERIES OF TARGETS FOR GABONESE ABUSE AND BLACKMAIL ATTEMPTS. BONGO'S FEAR OF U.S. PRESENCE AND SUPPOSED SUBVERSION IS REACHING PARANOID PROPORTIONS OF LATE AND HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REASSURED BY ANYTHING LESS THAN SUBSTANTIAL AID MONIES ON SCALE THAT OF FRENCH. BVIOUSLY, NEW AMBASSADOR UNLIKELY TO BE WELL EQUIPPED TO MEET THIS SOLE TEST OF FRIENDSHIP.

4. NOW, IN FACE FULL BLAST OF PRESIDENT'S NEWEST ATTACK, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE MYSELF GOING TO HIM WITH AN AGREMENT REQUEST--CERTAINLY UNLESS THERE IS EXPLICIT EXPRESSION OF REGRET FROM PRESIDENT FOR HISFOOLISH ACCUSATIONS (WHICH UNLIKELY). WE ARE ALREADY HELD UP TO RIDICULE AMONG ENTIRE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND MANY GABONESE AS WELL FOR REPEATEDLY TURNING OTHER CHEEK TO BONGO'S ATTACKS AND PERSISTING IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRIDGE BILATERAL MISUNDERSTANDING. APPOINTMENT OF NEW AMBASSADOR NOW WOULD COMPLETE OUR HUMILIATION AND CONVINCE BONGO WE ARE SO DETERMINED GET OUR HANDS ON GABONESE "RICHES" THAT HE CAN USE US AS SCAPEGOAT WITH UTTER IMPUNITY.

5. NOR DO I BELIEVE IT EXPEDIENT NOW FOR ME TO ATTEMPT SEE BONGO AND TRY TO PACIFY HIM. HE THOROUGHLY MISTRUSTS ME (THANKS TO FOCCARTS MEN) AND WOULD PAY ME NO HEED UNLESS I WERE ARMED WITH STRONGEST MESSAGE OF PROTEST FROM DEPT. AND HE HAS CLEVERLY COUCHED HIS CHARGES IN SUCH VAGUE TERMS AND ROUND-ABOUT CHANNELS AS TO MAKE A DIRECT REPLY THIS SORT ALMOST SELF-INCRIMINATING.

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6. I RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

A. THAT WE LIE LOW HERE FOR THE MOMENT, AVOIDING ALL CONTACT WITH GABONESE EXCEPT THAT RELATING DIRECTLY TO OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND OFFICIAL GABONESE INVITATIONS;

B. THAT WE SUSPEND ANY ACTION AIMED AT APPOINTING A NEW AMBASSADOR TO LIBREVILLE, PENDING A CLEARLY FAVORABLE CHANGE IN CLIMATE;

C. THAT WE NOT RPT NOT ACCORD HIM ANY OFFICIAL NOTICE WHATEVER DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. (HE IS LIKELY TO RENEW HIS BID TO SEE PRESIDENT NIXON IN ORDER "CLEAR UP PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING"); AND,

D. THAT WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS U.S. TRIP TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO HIM PRIVATELY FROM HIGHEST LEVELS THAT WE CANNOT TOLERATE HIS CONTINUED ABUSE NOR SUBMIT TO HIS BLACKMAIL TACTICS.

7. SUGGEST DEPT PASS PARIS AND YAOUNDE FOR INFO. GP-3
CRIGLER

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 EUR-12 PM-03 INR-06 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

DODE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 O-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 RSC-01

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R 251010Z JUL 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE ~~WASHDC 3338~~
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 626

LIMDIS

DELAY DUE TO CIRCUIT OUTAGE LIBREVILLE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITY IN GABON

REF: A. LIBREVILLE 486
B. LIBREVILLE 487
C. LIBREVILLE 501

1. IN MY FAREWELL CALLS ON PRESIDENT BONGO AND AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY, I TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS CRIGLER INCIDENT REFTELS. BOTH WERE DEFENSIVE AND EMBARRASSED (MEMCONS POUCHED), BUT DESPITE DELAUNEY'S ASSURANCE THAT US DIPLOMATS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SUBJECTED TO INTERROGATION AND ACCUSATION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY FRENCH GENDARMERIE REPRESENTATIVES IN FUTURE, IT CLEAR FROM BONGO'S EVASIONS THAT GABON WILL CONTINUE TO TURN UP ALLEGED CIA AGENTS IN ITS WOODPILE. NOT ONLY MUST FLICS, BOTH GABONESE AND FRENCH, LOOK BUSY, BUT THE INTELLECTUAL SOIL HERE PLUS THE INTERESTS INVOLVED MAKE GABON MOST FERTILE BREEDING GROUND FOR SUSPICION. IF WE ARE TO HAVE A MISSION IN LIBREVILLE, WE MUST EXPECT OUR MOST INNOCENT ACTIONS WILL BE SUSPECT. ALL WESTERN MISSIONS ARE EQUAL IN RESPECT TO THIS FACT OF LIFE IN GABON, BUT US IS MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS. THERE IS LITTLE BONGO CAN OR WILL DO ABOUT IT GIVEN THIS ENVIRONMENT.

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2. MY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TWOFOLD:

A) ADOPT TASK FORCE ELEVEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAFFING OF MINI-POSTS. EVEN THOUGH US EMBASSY HAS ONLY 10 POSITIONS, IT IS AT LEAST DOUBLE THE SIZE OF ALL OTHER MISSIONS BUT FRENCH. GABONESE (FRENCH) CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW THAT NUMBER OF INTELLIGENT WESTERNERS CAN EARN THEIR SALARY UNLESS ENGAGED IN HANKY-PANKY. THEY HAVE A POINT.

B) ANTICIPATE CHRONIC OUTBREAKS OF ESPIONAGE CHARGES AND EXPOSE SUCH ACCUSATIONS TO TOTAL LIGHT ON RECEIPT. WE OPENLY DISCUSSED RIDICULOUSNESS OF CHARGES AGAINST CRIGLER TO PREVENT ACCUSERS AND THEIR ACCUSATIONS FROM HIDING AND THRIVING IN OBSCURITY.

3. IN SUMMARY, THIS GHOST MAY BE BURIED BUT THE SPECTRE REMAINS. GP-3.
FUNKHOUSER

2004/09/L010

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT

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SECRET 578

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 W
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P 031130Z JUN 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3276

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 487

EXDIS

SUBJ: ACCUSATIONS

REF: STATE 084825

1. SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING DEPT'S MOST HELPFUL MESSAGE (REFTEL) THIS MORNING, I WAS TELEPHONED BY AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY WHO INFORMED ME PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO PASS ON WORD TO ME THAT HE CONSIDERED MATTER CLOSED. SAID BONGO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS MISTAKE TO GIVE MUCH CREDANCE TO STORIES OF SORT WHICH HAD REACHED HIM CONCERNING MY ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS TACTICS AND THE EXCESSIVE ZEAL HIS GENDARMERIE OFFICERS DISPLAYED IN CARRYING THEM OUT. PRESUME BOTH NKOMA AND DELAUNEY APPRISED HIM OF MY INTENTION TO REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS IN RESPONDING TO ACCUSATIONS.

3. RECOMMENDATION: BONGO WOULD LIKE TO SWEEP MATTER UNDER CARPETBEFORE HOPES FOR RAILROAD AID ARE DASHED, AND HIS

SECOND-HAND MESSAGETO ME ANTICIPATES THRUST OF AIDE-MEMOIRE EXT: CHARGES WITHDRAWN. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, RESPOND TO POINTS I AM INSTRUCTED MAKE VERBALLY, VIZ., THAT AUTHORITY OF U.S. IS VESTED IN ME IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE (PARA 1) AND THAT DEPT PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED THAT BASELESS CHARGES MADE OUTSIDE PROPER DIPLOMAIC CHANNELS (PARA 2). BELIEVE THEREFORE THATI SHOULD CONTINUE SEEK AUDIENCE WITH BONGO TO MAKE THESE POINTS, TO NOTE DEPT'S INITIAL REACTION AND INSTRUCTIONS, AND

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TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS MESSAGE TO ME--BUT THAT I SHOULD STOP SHORT OF HANDING HIM AIDE MEMOIRE EXT. WOULD HOPE EMPHASIZE THATWE PREFER MATTERS OFTHIS SORT BE TREATED DIRECTLY WITH THIS EMBASSY, NOT RPT NOT VIA DELAUNEY NOR GENDARMERIE. PLS INSTRUCT. GP-3.
CRIGLER

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 /046 W
---------- 061953

P 021200Z JUN 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3275

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 486

EXDIS

SUBJ: ACCUSATIONS OF SUBVERSION: SHADES OF DARLINGTON

1. SUMMARY: GABONESE GENDARMERIE COMMANDER YESTERDAY CALLED ME INTO HIS OFFICE AND, TOGETHER WITH HIS DEFACTO FRENCH BOSS, SUBJECTED ME TO LENGTHY INTERROGATION AND ACCUSATIONS OF SEEKING TO SUBVERT REGIME. CHARGES WERE MOSTLY OLD ONES WITH A FEW NEW TWISTS. ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY FRENCHMAN'S, WAS ABUSIVE AND INSULTING. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THEN CONVOKED ME THIS MORNING FOR SIMILAR SESSION, MINUS DIRECT ACCUSATIONS, AND STATED THAT BONGO EXTREMELY ANNOYED WITH ME. NO CLUE AS TO WHO BEHIND VILLIFICATION CAMPAIGN, THOUGH FRENCH UNEASINESS A PROBABLE FACTOR. RECOMMEND GENDARMERIE INCIDENT BE BROUGHT TO BONGO'S ATTENTION. INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. GABONESE HAVE ONCE MORE DEMONSTRATED THEY ARE THEIR OWN WORST ENEMIES. WITH AMBASSADOR FUNKHOUSER BARELY OUT OF SIGHT, GENDARMERIE COMMANDERS COL NKOMA (COUNTRY'S TOP-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER) AND LTC MAITRIER (HIS TOP FRENCH "ADVISOR") CALLED ME IN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO SUBJECT ME UNEXPECTEDLY TO AN INTENSE INTERROGATION, INSULTS, AND ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING MY ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF LATE. FIRST TROTTED OUT MATTER OF MY "UNAUTHORIZED" TRIP TO WOLEU-NTEM WITH MY SON, THEN MY RECENT CHAT WITH FONOFF OFFICIAL CONCERNING GABONESE POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHEN I PROTESTED THAT THESE WERE INNOCENT AND NORMAL FUNCTIONS OF DIPLOMATS THE WORLD OVER, NKOMA DECLARED THEY KNEW I WAS NO ORDINARY DIPLOMAT "BUT AN AGENT OF CIA BENT UPON CHANGING GABONESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH SUBVERTING MILITARY".

3. NKOMA ADDED TO BILL OF PARTICULARS: (A) THAT I-OR WE, THE

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CIA-HAD ATTEMPTED TO SUBVERT HIM PERSONALLY IN 1964; (B) THAT I HAD LATELY BEEN DISCUSSING INDIVIDUAL GABONESE MILITARY OFFICERS WITH PERSONS IN MY OFFICE; AND (C) THAT I HAD MADE STATEMENTS AT TIME OF TOMBALBAYE'S RECENT VISIT HERE DESCRIBING BONGO'S SPEECH ON THAT OCCASION AS "ANTI-FRENCH" (I WAS OF COURSE ABSENT ON R&R AT TIME). I DECLARED THAT ACCUSATIONS WERE FALSE, ABSURD, AND NONE OF GABONESE' BUSINESS INSOFAR AS THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE OCCURRED BEHIND EMBASSY WALLS. AS FAR AS I COULD TELL, NO NOTE WAS MADE OF ANY OF MY DENIALS OR STATEMENTS IN MY DEFENSE.

4. NKOMA CONCLUDED WITH LECTURE THAT EVERYONE CLAIMING TO BE FRIEND OF GABON IS NOT NECESSARILY SO, AND THAT A TRULY FRIENDLY DIPLOMAT WOULD NOT BE ATTEMPTING SUBVERT GOVERNMENT BUT RATHER AIDING IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO PRESIDENT, WHO HAD ORDERED INVESTIGATION. I REPLIED THAT I HOPED I TOO WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO MAKE MY OWN REPORT TO BONGO AND EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AT INDIGNITIES JUST EXPERIENCED.

5. TONE THROUGHOUT 45 MINUTE SESSION WAS MENACING AND INSULTING, PARTICULARLY FROM LTC. OAITRIER WHO SEEMED TO HAVE STAGE-MANAGED WHOLE AFFAIR. WHEN I INSISTED THAT THE HAPLESS NKOMA POSE HIS OWN QUESTIONS AND POINTEDLY IGNORED MAITRIER'S DIGS, LATTER BECAME INCREASINGLY ANGRY AND ABUSIVE. DECLARED IN FRENZY THAT MEN IN UNIFORM EXPECT CIVILIANS TO ANSWER TO THEM, NOT THE REVERSE, AND INSIST UPON HAVING LAST WORD. REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF TO ME BY NAME, AND FINALLY ENDED SESSION BY STORMING FROM ROOM MUTTERING HE'D HAD ENOUGH OF ME AND MY "DISRESPECTFUL" ATTITUDE.

6. DELAUNEY'S OFFICE HAD TELEPHONED EARLIER IN DAY TO ASK THAT I CALL ON HIM FOLLOWING MORNING. SKIPPING PLEASANTRIES, DELAUNEY SAID PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER STORIES MY ACTIVITIES OF LATE AND HAD ASKED DELAUNEY TO WARN ME TO WATCH MY STEP, KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, AND STOP NOSING AROUND FONOFF. TICKED OFF REPORTS THAT (A) I HAD BEEN SPREADING RUMOR FRENCH DISSATISFIED WITH BONGO AND WERE PLANNING REPLACE HIM WITH JUNTA OF YOUNG OFFICERS. (B) I WAS SAYING THAT FRENCH COMMUNITY ALSO UNHAPPY WITH PRESIDENT AND HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH PERSONAL BUSINESS DEALINGS; AND (C) THAT I HAD ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS DURING WOLEU-NTEM TRIP.

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7. DELAUNEY AGREED THAT SOMEONE WAS OUT TO GET ME, BUT ASSURED ME IT CERTAINLY NOT A FRENCHMAN. ALSO OBSERVED THAT GABONESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL NOT CALLED INTO QUESTION, THAT AMBASSADOR FUNKHOUSER'S RELATIONS WITH BONGO CURRENTLY "EXCELLENT", AND THAT MATTER SEEMED PURELY PERSONAL. ADVISED I SEEK AUDIENCE WITH BONGO TO EXPLAIN MYSELF.

8. COMMENT: I HAVE NO GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS BIZARRE AND UNPLEASANT AFFAIR, APART FROM UNEASY AND SLIGHTLY SOUR TONE WHICH IN FACT EXISTS JUST NOW IN GABONESE-FRENCH COMMUNITY RELATIONS. TIMING IS JUST TOO PAT FOR COINCIDENCE, HOWEVER, AND DELAUNEY GAVE ME IMPRESSION HE KNEW MORE THAN WILLING TO REVEAL ABOUT ITS ORIGIN. MOST LOGICAL GUESS IS THAT FRENCH INDEED CONCERNED AT BONGO'S GROWING INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD LIKE TO DISTRACT HIM FROM CURRENT GET-TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD REPACIOUS BUSINESS COMMUNITY BY WORRYING HIM WITH AN IMAGINARY CIA PLOT (IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME).

9. RECOMMENDATION: IN ANY EVENT, BELIEVE MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO BONGO'S ATTENTION UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, WITH REQUEST FOR APOLOGY FROM OFFICERS CONCERNED. SHOULD BE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT IT UNACCEPTABLE FOR ACCREDITED DIPLOMAT TO BE RAKED OVER COALS BY TOP MILITARY OFFICER OF HOST COUNTRY SUPPOSEDLY FRIENDLY TOWARD U.S.--PARTICULARLY IN PRESENCE AND WITH COMPLICITY OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISOR. MEMCONS BEING POUCHED TODAY. INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED SOONEST.

10. SUGGEST SENSE OF FOREGOING BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR FUNKHOUSER WHO SCHEDULED CHECK INTO PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK, THIS EVENING. GP-3
CRIGLER

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 143

2

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00316 110926Z

18
ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 W
---------- 055238

R 110815Z APR 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3196

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 316

EXDIS

SUBJECT: BONGO REQUESTS CIA (SIC)

REF: AF/EX BRADFORD LETTER APRIL 1

1. BONGO HAS AGAIN PROVED HIS ORIGINALITY: THIS TIME, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BY REQUESTING CIA PRESENCE IN GABON. SPECIFICALLY, IN OUR CONVERSATION APRIL 9 (MEMCON POUCHED) HE ALLEGED SO MUCH CONCERN REGARDING BRAZZA INFLUENCE IN HIS HOME STATE HAUT-OGOOUE THAT HE WOULD WELCOME PRESENCE U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATION AT FRANCEVILLE.

2. I UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: BONGO'S CURRENT OBSESSION, OTHER THAN RAILROAD, IS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISOLATION OF HIS HOME STATE WHICH HE CONSIDERS VULNERABLE TO BRAZZA MACHINATIONS. ON ALL POSSIBLE OCCASIONS HE HAS BEEN REQUESTING HELP OF ALL WESTERN MISSIONS IN DEVELOPING THIS DISTANT, EXPOSED PROVINCE, FROM WHICH GABONESE MANGANESE AND URANIUM ARE EXPORTED BY TELEPHERIQUE THRUGH PEOPLES REPUBLIC CONGO. HIS SHOPPING LIST INCLUDES A) EXTENSION OF RAILWAY FROM BOOUE TO MINES TO PERMIT GABON TO CONTROL ITS STRATEGIC MINERAL EXPORTS; B) 60-KILOWATT RADIO-TV TRANSMITTER TO OFFSET AND REVERSE FLOW BRAZZA PROPAGANDA; C) MATERNITY HOSPITAL, AIRPORTS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND ENTERPRISES, ETC. LATEST REQUEST SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THIS WIDER CONTEXT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, LET ALONE CLEARED WITH FRENCH, BUT CAN EASILY ASCERTAIN IF DEPT SO DESIRES. GP-2

FUNKHOUSER

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 520

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00083 230935Z

22
ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 /046 W
---------- 111822

P 230815Z JAN 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3070

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 083

EXDIS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S OVERFLIGHT

REF: LIBREVILLE 081

1. I TOOK OCCASION TO CHECK OUT EMBASSY JUDGMENT OF IMPENDING "CRISIS" REFTEL WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY. AFTER RESUME OF BONGO'S SPIRITED PHONE CALL AND FURY OVER BEING SPURNED TWICE AGAIN, DELAUNEY ADVISED ME:

A) TO PROCEED WITH ROUTINE NOTE WHICH MIGHT ESCAPE BONGO'S ATTENTION SINCE HE WILL BE GONE NEXT WEEK FOR YAOUNDE OCAM CONFERENCE AND FT. LAMY ANNIVERSARY;

B) SHOULD BONGO PROTEST, TO EXPLAIN THAT SECRETARY'S ITINERARY COULD SIMPLY NOT RPT NOT BE CHANGED AT THIS POINT;

C) "BONG TALKS A LOT BUT HE WILL RECOVER; YOU AMERICANS WANT TOO MUCH TO BE LIKED."

2. IN VIEW DOYEN'S NEW FACTS AND SUPERIOR AFRICAN KNOWHOW, I PROPOSE TO PROCEED AS ADVISED UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED AND WILL REPORT ONLY A) CLEARANCE, WHICH NOW APPEARS MORE PROBABLY, OR B) IMPASSE, WHICH SEEMS LESS LIKELY. GP-4
FUNKHOUSER

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

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SECRET 158

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00081 221241Z

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 /046 W
---------- 105624

P 221140Z JAN 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3068

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 081

EXDIS

REF: STATE 008877
89 MAWG ANDREWS AFB

1. REQUEST FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT REQUIRES DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH HANDLED AT PRESIDENCY AND WILL ONLY AGGRAVATE PROBLEM DESCRIBED IN MY TEL 062.

2. BONGO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ASK WHY SECRETARY'S PLANE CANNOT TOUCH DOWN AT LIBREVILLE AIRPORT FOR THIRTY MINUTES.

3. IF THIS NOT REPEAT NOT POSSIBLE, CANNOT AIRCRAFT CONTINUE OFFSHORE, THUS AVOIDING REOPENING ISSUE WHICH IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS HERE? GREATLY REGRET THIS ANNOYING COMPLICATION, WHICH IS NEW TO ME IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE. IT WILL BE UNDERSTOOD EVERYWHERE BUT HERE IF YOU INSTRUCT ME TO SUBMIT NOTE AS REQUESTED REFTEL. GP-3
FUNKHOUSER

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 973

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00062 161645Z

41
ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /046 W
073907

O 161515Z JAN 70
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3054

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 062

EXDIS

DEPT. REPEAT FOR ASST. SEC. NEWSOM

SUBJECT: BONGO BLACKBALLED?

REF: STATE 006481

1. BONGO JUST TELEPHONED ME IN EXASPERATION OVER RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM GABONESE UN AMBASSADOR DAVID CITING JAN. 7 AFP DISPATCH LISTING THE SECRETARY'S AND ASST. SEC. NEWSOM'S SEPARATE AFRICAN ITINERARIES, THE LATTER ALLEDEDLY INCLUDING "ALL WEST AFRICAN CAPITALS EXCEPT LIBREVILLE AND MAOIST BRAZZAVILLE". HE CONSIDERED THIS A SERIOUS, CALCULATED SLIGHT TO HIMSELF AND HIS COUNTRY, ALLEGING ALSO THAT ASST. SECRETARY DIDN'T EVEN SPEAK TO HIM AT YAOUNDE. HE ASKED IF HE WERE BEING "OSTRICISED" FOR HIS POSITION ON "BIAFRA" AND DEPLORED "DESTRUCTION OF HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE U.S.-GABONESE RELATIONS".

2. HAPPILY I COULDSAY WITH CAMPLETE CANDOR THAT I HAD NOT RECEIVED THE ASST. SECRETARY'S ITINERARY, WHICH I PRESUMED WAS DECIDED AT THE LAST MINUTE DURING THE CRISIS AND WAS DEPENDENT ON THE EXIGENCIES OF TIME AND SPACE. I STATED THAT I WOULD WIRE IMMEDIATELY FOR THE FACTS WHICH I COULD NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE WERE AS DESCRIBED.

3. TO CALM MATTERS DOWN, I SHIFTED GROUND TO FRENCH REPORTS OF THE ELIMINATION OF IBO "ELITE" AND ASKED WHETHER ANY IMPORTANT IBO'S HAD ARRIVED HERE IN SAFETY, OTHER THAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (REFTEL). THE PRESIDENT SAID "YES." "ABOUT

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00062 161645Z

HOW MANY?" "SIXTY." THE PRESIDENT ASSERTED WITH SOME FIRE THAT GABON HAD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OFFER ASYLUM TO IBO MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON CONDITION OF NON-ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND HE HOPED THAT THIS DID NOT MEET WITH USG DIS-PLEASURE. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE UNITED IN HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND HELP FOR THE REFUGEES.

4. COMMENT: BONGO'S DEEP WOUND THAT HIS YOUNG WIFE JOSEPHINE WAS SLIGHTED IN WASHINGTON LAST SPRING HAS REOPENED. ONE THING I'VE LEARNED HERE IS THAT THESE AFRICANS ARE INORDINATELY SENSITIVE TO SIGNS OF RESPECT AND AFFECTION, AND BONGO HAS NOW FORGOTTEN THE SECRETARY'S AND NEWSOM'S GRACIOUS EFFORTS IN NOVEMBER. PLEASE SEND ME SOMETHING MORE TO SAY AND HOPEFULLY SOMETHING TO OFFER, SUCH AS A TOUCH-DOWN AT LIBREVILLE BY THE MOST IMPORTANT KINSHASA CONFERENCE VISITOR POSSIBLE. EVEN BETTER, OF COURSE, WOULD BE THE LONG-SOUGHT INVITATION TO HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON IN THE SPRING AFTER EX-BIAFRAN DUST SETTLES.

5. THIS INCIDENT UNFORTUNATELY IS COMPOUNDED BY BONGO'S SENSITIVITY OVER HIS BIAFRAN "LOST CAUSE." BUT I HOPE THERE IS NO TENDENCY IN WASHINGTON TO PUNISH HIM FOR WHAT IS CON-SIDERED LOCALLY AS A NOTABLE AND "PURELY HUMANITARIAN" EFFORT TOWARDS "VIAFRA" ON THE PART OF GABON: "ARMS COME FROM OTHERS" AS THE GABONESE SAY WITH SOME ACCURACY. LINCOLNESQUE RECONCILIATION IS THE WORD NOW, AND IT SHOULD APPEAR ON THE INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS THE TRIBAL LEVEL, WITH THE USG OUT IN FRONT. AFTER ALL, GABON IS STILL ENGAGED IN SIGNIFICANT HUMANITARIAN WORK WHICH DESERVES OUR RESPECT, AND BONGO PRIDES HIMSELF ON HAVING OPPOSED A FORCE FROM WHICH WOMEN AND CHILDREN FLED FOR THEIR LIVES, A RULE-OF-THUMB FOR RIGHT AND WRONG IN FOREIGN POLICY WHICH I HAVE EVEN USED WITH SOME SUCCESS ON MY ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT, LONG-HAIRED SON IN DEFENDING THE U.S. POSITION IN MAJOR WORLD CONFLICTS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, E.G. WESTERN EUROPE, WEST BERLIN, SOUTH KOREA, TAIPEI, SOUTH VIETNAM, CUBA AND EVEN THE MIDDLE EAST WHERE BOTH ARABS AND JEWISH REFUGEES "VOTE WITH THEIR FEET". UNTIL HISTORY JUDGES THE "BIAFRAN" TRAGEDY, BONGO'S ROLE, AND GOWON'S ASSERTION THAT IT IS "THE END OF MISERY", LET'S KEEP HIM IN THE FOLD.
FUNKHOUSER

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 320

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01,SSO 00,NSCE 00,USIE 00,CPR 02,JPM 04,H 02,NSC 10,O 02,

OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,SY 03,RSR 01,/070 W
---------- 055850

O 301134Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2531

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 436

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT US

REF: STATE 66296

MADAME BONG AND PARTY ARRIVE NEW YORK 2100 TODAY 30 APRIL
VIA PAA 157. ONWARD FLIGHT SAME NIGHT VIA BN 543 DEPARTING
NEW YORK 2330, ARRIVING WASHINGTON 0030.
DECON
BANE

Department of State

Central TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 717

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00429 291548Z

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01,CPR 02,JPM 04,H 02,NSC 10,O 02,OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,
SY 03,USIA 12,SSO 00,CU 04,RSR 01,/086 W
---------- 049720

P 291513Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2526

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 429

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT US

REF: LIBREVILLE 420 AND 428

TWO ADDITIONAL GABONESE LADIES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO MRS.
BONGO'S PARTY: HONORINE ERIGAH (PERSONAL SECRETARY)
AND CLARISSE DADOUNDIAYE (PERSONAL ATTENDANT).
DECON
BANE

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 715

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01,CPR 02,JPM 04,H 02,NSC 10,O 02,OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,

SY 03,USIA 12,AID 28,E 15,CU 04,RSR 01,SSO 00,/129 W
049719

P 291500Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2525

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 428

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT US

1. A CAMERAMAN, MONSIEUR SOUMON, HAS NOW BEEN ADDED TO MRS. BONGO'S PARTY AS INDICATED LIBREVILLE'S 420.

2. PRESIDENCY CONFIRMS THAT MRS. BONGO AND PARTY WILL TRAVEL US TOMORROW 30TH ON PAN AM DOUALANEW YORK FLIGHT AND WILL CONTINUE ON WASHINGTON SAME EVE.

3. MRS. BONGO WILL BEGIN HER US VISIT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION GABONESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IT IS EXPECTED HERE THAT HER ITINERARY AS WELL LENGTH HER INITIAL STAY WASHINGTON WILL BE DETERMINED IN LIGHT TIMING HER PROPOSED CALL ON MRS. NIXON. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT SHE WILL RETURN WASHINGTON NEAR END OF VISIT IN ORDER GIVE RECEPTION WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS GABONESE RAIL MISSION WHICH ARRIVING WASHINGTON MAY TEN.
DECON
BANE

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 963

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ACTION AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03,

USIA 12, RSR 01, AID 28, E 15, CU 04, /128 W
---------- 034244

R 260925Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2519

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 420

SUBJECT: MME. BONGO TRIP US

REF: LIBREVILLE 412 AND 414

ISSUED VISAS APRIL 25 MRS. BONGO AND FOLLOWING PERSONS MAKING UP PARTY: MRS. ROSE MEBIAME (WIFE OF VICE PRESIDENT), MRS. ISABELLE EKOH (WIFE OF MIN. STATE FOR AGRICULTURE), MRS. HENRIETTE BOUMAH (WIFE OF MIN. FINANCE), MRS. AGATHE ANNY OKUMBA D'OKWATSEGUE (SECRETARY TO MRS. BONGO), MR. JOESPH KOUMBA-MOUITY (PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL), AND MR. CHRISTOPHE OBEI (BODYGUARD). ADDITION MADE TODAY TO PARTY IS MR. DAMAS ODJAGA, CIVIL SERVANT UNKNOWN TO US.
DECON
BANE

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CONFIDENTIAL 975

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ACTION AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03,

USIA 12, RSR 01, /081 W
---------- 034295

P 261145Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2523

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 424

REF: STATE 65024

1. I MET WITH FANGUINOVENY THIS MORNING AND CONVEYED DEPT'S VIEWS REFTEL. I PARTICULARLY UNDERSCORED OUR REGRET OVER FACT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE, AS WELL OUR UNHAPPINESS AT BEING PLACED IN POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING POSITION BY UNCLEARED ANNOUNCEMENT. I INDICATED THAT REQUEST FOR WHITE HOUSE CALL BY MRS. BONGO BEING MADE AND THAT DEPT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO HELP BADINGA IN CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN SHORT TIME REMAINING. I INFORMED FANGUINOVENY THAT IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT MRS. NIXON WULD BE ABLE ATTEND RECEPTION GIVEN BY MRS. BONGO.

2. FANGUINOVENY ON DEFENSIVE AND HAD NOTHINGADD TO WHAT HE HAD SAID TO ME YESTERDAY, IE., WE MUST APPRECIATE GABON YOUNG INEXPERIENCED COUNTRY AND THAT "JOURNALIST" HAD MADE ERROR IN STATING MRS. BONGO WILL BE RECEIVED WHITE HOUSE. (THIS IS NONSENSE OF COURSE SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT DELIBERATE GOG ACTION AND INTENDED PLACE US IN POSITION WE NOW IN.) SAID HE WOULD INFORM BONGO IMMEDIATELY OF WHAT I HAD SAIDAND REITERATED AGAIN WHOLE PURPOSE VISIT WAS BRING ABOUT CLOSER TIES US. HE ASKED WHETHER BONGO SHOULD NOT NOW SEND CABLE PRES NIXON SUGGESTING WHITE HOUSE ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENT MRS. BONGO VISIT. I RESPONDED NEGATIVELY AND FANGUINOVENY ADMITTED THIS SUPPOSED BE PRIVATE VISIT (ALTHOUGH GOG OBVIOUSLY SEEKING MAKE AS MUCH OFFICIAL MILEAGE OUT OF IT AS POSSIBLE).

3. AS I SUSPECTED AND IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION, APPARENT NO THOUGHT AS YET GIVEN BY GOG TO MRS. BONGO'S PROGRAM US OR ANY

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GUIDANCE THIS SCORE GIVEN POOR BADINGA. (I GATHER GOG HAS HAD NO RESPONSE FROM HIM SINCE INSTRUCTING BY CABLE 24TH TO MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS.) ACCORDING FANGUNOVENY SHE WILL STAY US ABOUT 15 DAYS. HE THEN GOT MRS.BONGO ON PHONE TO ASK HER WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO DO AND SEE WHILE US. WE DISCUSSED THEREAFTER AND AS RESULT FANGUINOVENY CABLING BADINGA TODAY DEVELOP PROGRAM SUGGESTING INCLUSION VISITS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, DETROIT, LOS ANGELES SANFRANCISCO, CAPE KENNEDY. FANGUINOVENY THOUGHT SHE WOULD LIKE VISIT UN AS WELL PORT AND FASHIONHOUSES NEW YORK; UNIVERSITY IN BOSTION OR PHILADELPHIA; AUTO PLANT DETROIT; DISNEYLAND AND HOLLYWOOD WHILE LA AND SANFRANCISCO; AND CAPE KENNEDY FOR MAY APOLLO LAUNCH. I MIGHT ADD THAT MRS. BONGO TAKES KEEN INTEREST IN CLOTHES AND FASHION.

4. FANGUINOVENY SAID HE WULD ALSO SUGGEST BADINGA ARRANGE VISITS OTHER CITIES DURING FIRST TEN DAYS VISIT PLACING WASHINGTON NEAR END IN ORDER ALLOW MORE TIME TO ARRANGE WHITE HOUSE CALL AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY MRS. NIXON ATTENDANCE MRS. BONGO'S RECEPTION.

5. FANGUINOVENY TELEPHONED LATER IN MORNING SAY HE HAD JUST REVIEWED ENTIRE MATTER WITH PRES AND MRS. BONGO AND THEY IN AGREEMENT WITH PROGRAM ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PARA 3 ABOVE AND BADINGA WILL BE INSTRUCTED PROCEED THIS BASIS AS WELL PLACE WASHINGTON VISIT NEAR END US STAY FOR REASONS INDICATED PARA 4 ABOVE.

6. COMMENT: FULLY SHARE DEPT'S REACTION REFLECTED REFTEL AND REGRET BONGO HAS DONE IT AGAIN. (I AM HAVING TO COUNT TO TEN MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THESE DAYS.) AS I AM SURE DEPTAWARE, MRS. BONGO IS PART OF CURRENT BONGO SNOW JOB TRY ESTABLISH HIGH LEVEL CONTACT NEW ADMINISTRATION INORDER TRY PAVE WAY FOR USG CONTRIBUTION HIS RAIL PROJECT. WE DID NOT RESPOND TO BONGO'S MANY OVERTURES TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT WASHINGTON THIS SPRING AND SO HE UTILIZING HIS WIFE AS NEXT BEST TRY OBTAIN WHITE HOUSE LINK AND FOCUS GABON. MRS. BONGO'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TIMED PRECEDE ARRIVAL GOG MISSION WASHINGTON MAY 10 INITIATE TALKS ON RAIL PROJECT WITH WORLD BANK, DEPT AND AID.
GP-3
BANE

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120/10/L2L0

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CF

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ACTION AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03,

USIA 12, AID 28, EUR 17, E 15, CU 04, RSR 01, SSO 00, CCO 00, /145 W
026968

O 251143Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2513

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 414

SUBJECT: MME. BONGO VISIT US

REF: LIBREVILLE 412, APRIL 25, 1969

EMBASSY REPORTED INCORRECTLY LIBREVILLE 412 THAT VICE PRESIDENT MEBIAME, MINISTER STATE FOR AGRICULTURE EKOH, AND MINISTER FINANCE BOUMAH WOULD ACCOMPANY MRS. BONGO US. ONLY WIVES THESE OFFICIALS WILL ACCOMPANY.
BANE

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CONFIDENTIAL 049

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ACTION AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03,

USIA 12, RSR 01, /081 W
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P 251145Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2514

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 415

SUBJECT: MRS. BONGO'S VISIT US

REF: LIBREVILLE 412

1. I WAS FINALLY ABLE REACH ROVING AMB FANGUINOVENY 1030 WHO SAID HE WAS JUST ABOUT GET IN TOUCH WITH ME. HE CAME THEREAFTER MY OFFICE. I EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MRS. BONGO'S PROPOSED VISIT US AND ASKED WHETHER AMB BADINGA HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MRS. BONGO CALL ON MRS. NIXON.

2. FANGUINOVENY CONFIRMED PUBLISHED REPORT MRS. BONGO WILL LEAVE FOR US APRIL 30. SHE WILL TRAVEL US VIA PANAM FLIGHT DOUALA NEW YORK 30TH CONTINUING WASHINGTON SAME EVE. ALSO CONFIRMED REPORT MRS. BONGO WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY MESDAMES MEBIAME, EKOH, BOUMAH AND OKUMBA. FANGUINOVENY INSISTED HOWEVER THAT PRESSRELEASE IN ERROR IN SUGGESTING ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY MADE FOR MRS. BONGO CALL ON MRS. NIXON.

3. FANGUINOVENY WENT ON SAY INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO AMB BADINGA YESTERDAY 24TH TO MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MRS. BONGO'S PRIVATE VISIT US. BADINGA SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR MRS. BONGO CALL ON MRS. NIXON AS WELL REQUEST MRS. NIXON ATTEND RECEPTION MRS. BONGO WILL GIVE WHILE WASHINGTON. FANGUINOVENY EXPRESSED BONGO'S HOPE WE WOULD ASSIST IN OBTAINING MRS. NIXON'S AGREEMENT RECEIVE MRS. BONGO AND TO ATTEND MRS. BONGO'S RECEPTION. I POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING ALL CONCERNED IN VIEW SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND SAID I WOULD INFORM DEPT IMMEDIATELY WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME ABOUT MRS. BONGO'S TRIP.

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4. FANGUINOVENY CONCLUDED SAYING VISIT AND SPEED WITH WHICH DECISION REACHED AND ANNOUNCEMENT MADE REFLECTS GOG'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES US.

5. COMMENT: LOOKS LIKE PRETTY MUCH OF A FAIT ACCOMPLI TO ME. DESPITE OBVIOUS COMMENTS THAT WE MIGHT MAKE ON HANDLING OF THIS EXERCISE BY BONGO, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSIST AMB BADINGA IN WORKING OUT KIND OF SCHEDULE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MRS. BONGO AND HER PARTY THAT WILL WORK TO BENEFIT OF US-GABONESE RELATIONSHIP. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IF MRS. BONGO UNABLE TO CALL ON MRS. NIXON WHILE WASHINGTON AND SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION IS NOT SHOWN HER AND HER PARTY WHILE THERE, RELATIONSHIP WILL BE STRAINED. BONGO, OF COURSE, HAS OBVIOUSLY SOUGHT TO BOX US IN ON THIS ONE. GP-3
BANE

0737/01/029

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CONFIDENTIAL 750

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ACTION AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, ST 03,

USIA 12, AID 28, EUR 17, E 15, CU 04, RSR 01, /145 W
---------- 026116

P 250915Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2511

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 412

SUBJECT: MME. BONGO VISIT TO US ANNOUNCED

REF: LIBREVILLE 407, APRIL 24, 1969

1. GOG DAILY NEWS BULLETIN TODAY, APRIL 25, ANNOUNCES MME. BONGO DEPARTING FOR PRIVATE VISIT US APRIL 30 WITH FIRST STOP WASHINGTON WHERE SHE WILL BE RECEIVED AT WHITE HOUSE BY MRS. NIXON. ACCORDING ANNOUNCEMENT, MME. BONGO TO BE ACCOMPANINED BY VICE PRES OF GOVERNMENT AND MRS. LEON MEBIAME, MIN STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND MRS. JEAN-MARC EKOH, MIN FINANCE AND MRS. AUGUSTIN BOUMAH, AND MRS. PAUL OKUMBA WHO IS PERSONAL SECRETARY TO MME. BONGO AND WIFE SEC GEN OF GOVERNMENT.

2. I HAVE HAD NO FURTHER TALK WITH PRES BONGO ON SUBJECT MME. BONGO VISIT SINCE APRIL 23 (REFTEL) AND PRES BONGO HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED TO ME DATES OF TRIP AS HE SAID HE WOULD. FACT BONGO HAS HANDLED MATTER IN THIS FASHION AND HAS NOT COMMUNICATED WITH EMBASSY REFLECTS I THINK FEELING HIS PART EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN AS FORTHCOMING RE MME. BONGO VISIT AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED. WE ENDEAVORING CONFIRM ANNOUNCEMENT AND DETAILS ITINERARY WITH GOG AND WILL ADVISE.

3. PRESUME AMB BADINGA HAS COMMUNICATED WITH PRES AND INFORMED HIM MRS. NIXON WOULD BE PREPARED RECEIVE MME. BONGO. BONGO HAS GOTTEN NO SUCH INDICATION FROM US.

4. NOTE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT HEADLINE AND TEXT REFER TO VISIT AS PRIVATE ONE. FORTUNATELY, IT WOULD APPEAR WE HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH TO GABONESE OUR VIEWS ON PRIVATE VISIT BY WIFE OF CHIEF OF STATE AND THEY PROCEEDING ON THAT BASIS.

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ALLEN
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5. RAPID MOVEMENT AHEAD WITH MME. BONGO VISIT AND INCLUSION TOP RANKING MEMBERS OF GOVT IN PARTY DEMONSTRATES BONGO DETERMINATION ESTABLISH TIES WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION AT EARLY DATE IN PREPARATION GROUND FOR HIS OWN VISIT US AND PUSH FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO OWENDO-BELINGA RR.
BANE

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P 291513Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2526

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 429

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT US

REF: LIBREVILLE 420 AND 428

TWO ADDITIONAL GABONESE LADIES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO MRS.
BONGO'S PARTY: HONORINE ERIGAH (PERSONAL SECRETARY)
AND CLARISSE DADOUNDIAYE (PERSONAL ATTENDANT).
DECON
BANE

Ed

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 715

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P 291500Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2525

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 428

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT US

1. A CAMERAMAN, MONSIEUR SOUMON, HAS NOW BEEN ADDED TO MRS. BONGO'S PARTY AS INDICATED LIBREVILLE'S 420.

2. PRESIDENCY CONFIRMS THAT MRS. BONGO AND PARTY WILL TRAVEL US TOMORROW 30TH ON PAN AM DOUALANEW YORK FLIGHT AND WILL CONTINUE ON WASHINGTON SAME EVE.

3. MRS. BONGO WILL BEGIN HER US VISIT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION GABONESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IT IS EXPECTED HERE THAT HER ITINERARY AS WELL LENGTH HER INITIAL STAY WASHINGTON WILL BE DETERMINED IN LIGHT TIMING HER PROPOSED CALL ON MRS. NIXON. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT SHE WILL RETURN WASHINGTON NEAR END OF VISIT IN ORDER GIVE RECEPTION WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS GABONESE RAIL MISSION WHICH ARRIVING WASHINGTON MAY TEN.
DECON
BANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193507

EXDIS

SUBJ: DC-8

REF: (A) STATE 187158; (B) STATE 186683; (C) LIBREVILLE 735

1. FOLLOWING IS FURTHER INFO ABOUT EXIM CONSIDERATION LOAN GUARANTEE FOR DC-8 SALE MENTIONED REFTEL (A).

2. XMB BOARD HAS REJECTED APPLICATION FROM CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS BANK FOR POLITICAL RISK GUARANTEE COVERING THE FINANCING OF SALE OF DC-8 TO AFRETAIR. THE XMB BOARD CONSIDERED THE GUARANTEE AS A RISK UNACCEPTABLE TO THE BANK BECAUSE OF INCONSISTENCIES AND CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN INFORMATION IN THE APPLICATION AND THAT PROVIDED BY RELIABLE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL COM-MERCIAL INTELLIGENCE. FACTORSCONSIDERED ARE LISTED PARAS 3 THROUGH 7 BELOW:

3. AFRETAIR HAS APPLIED TO THE GOG FOR RIGHTS TO FLY FROM GABON TO RHODESIA.

4. AT DOLS 25,000 AFRETAIR IS UNDERCAPITALIZED. CON-FLICTING INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED ON HOW MANY PLANES

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AFRETAIR HAS, IF ANY. THE COMPANY IS NOT LISTED IN THE LATEST EDITION OF JANES AIRLINES.

5. JACK MALLOCH, A RHODESIAN CITIZEN, OWNS OR CONTROLS 50 PERCENT OF AFRETAIR STOCK. MR. MALLOCH HAS A

REPUTATION FOR ENGAGING IN SHADY OPERATIONS.

6. AFRETAIR STATED THAT IT WOULD UTILIZE THE PLANE ON ROUTES WITHIN GABON AND FROM GABON TO EUROPE AND OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS. ON MOST ROUTES, UTILIZATION IS SUBJECT TO VETO BY AIR AFRIQUE, UTA AND TRANS-GABON. AIR AFRIQUE, WHICH IS BENEFICIARY OF LARGE EXIM LOANS, CAN SUPPLY PLANES TO SERVICE MOST OF THE POTENTIAL TRAFFIC.

7. ORIGINALLY IT WAS SAID THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS TO BE USED IN PART BY PRESIDENT BONGO AND HIS FAMILY. THE BONGOSE ARE NOW NEGOTIATING TO PURCHASE A GRUMMAN GULF-STREAM II AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AIRCRAFT. XMB HAS APPROVED A PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT TO FINANCE THIS PURCHASE.

8. IN THE OPINION OF AN XMB OFFICIAL, CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS WILL NOW WITHDRAW FROM THE TRANSACTION. NATIONAL AIRCRAFT LEASING CORPORATION'S (VENDOR) FINANCIAL POSITION MAKE IT DOUBTFUL THAT IT CAN PROVIDE ITS SHARE OF THE FINANCING. IT LIKELY THEREFORE THAT SALE WILL FAIL THROUGH UNLESS AFRETAIR COMES UP WITH CASH OR ANOTHER RELIABLE GUARANTOR TO OBTAIN COMMERCIAL FINANCING.

9. SINCE GOG NOT PARTY TO LOAN GUARANTEE APPLICATION, NOTIFICATION OF TURNDOWN BEING MADE ONLY TO CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS AND NATIONAL AIRCRAFT LEASING. PRESUMABLY, GOG WILL FIND OUT ABOUT THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT FROM AFRETAIR.

10. SUGGEST THAT YOU DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH FONMIN DAMORI ON INFORMAL FRIENDLY BASIS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. XMB DECISION MADE PURELY ON BASIS NORMAL COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL CRITERIA. THERE WAS NO INVOLVEMENT OF DEPT WHOSE ONLY ROLE TO DATE HAS BEEN TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSE. XMB IS OTHERWISE VERY WELL DISPOSED TO

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[illegible]ON AS INDICATED BY PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT FOR GRUMMAN [illegible] CRAFT AND WILLINGNESS PARTICIPATE IN RAILWAY [illegible]NCING.

[illegible] INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY XMB THROUGH ITS COMMERCIAL SOURCES, OF WHICH DEPT WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE, IS [illegible]URBING IN ITS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. DEPT [illegible]PECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT REPORT OF AFRETAIR OWNERSHIP [illegible] JACK MALLOCH. WE DO NOT QUESTION PREVIOUS GOG ASSURANCES ABOUT RHODESIAN TRADE, BUT MERE PRESENCE OF [illegible] MALLOCH IN AFRETAIR OWNERSHIP COULD NOT FAIL TO EMBARRASS BOTH GOG AND USG. WE MUST ASSUME THAT SAME SOURCES AVAILABLE TO XMB ALSO AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS [illegible] GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING QUESTION OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS [illegible] CLOSELY.

[illegible] IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF TRANSACTION WERE ALLOWED TO COLLAPSE FOR LACK [illegible] FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THEREBY KEEPING THE MATTER [illegible]ATED FROM FURTHER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. WE WOULD [illegible]PRECIATE RAWIRI'S RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING.

[illegible]NCE RESPONSIBILITY OF UPHOLDING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS [illegible] PROPOSED TRANSACTION IS ULTIMATELY THAT OF [illegible]NESE GOVT ALONE, GOG AND EMBASSY MAY UNDERSTANDABLY [illegible]ZZLED AT DEPTH OF DEPT'S CONCERN. THE FACT THAT USG [illegible] HIGHLY VISIBLE EXCEPTION TO SANCTIONS POLICY FOR [illegible]TATION OF RHODESIAN CHROME MAY CONTRIBUTE TO GOG [illegible]NG THAT PURCHASE OF SINGLE USED AIRCRAFT IS REALLY [illegible] SIGNIFICANCE. DEPT WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT [illegible] OUTCRY CREATED BY USG IMPORTS OF RHODESIAN [illegible] BOTH ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND WITHIN IMPORTANT [illegible]NTS OF US OPINION, HAS MADE ENTIRE ISSUE OF [illegible] SANCTIONS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE IN RECENT [illegible] IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, THEREFORE, FOR USG TO [illegible]SSOCIATE ITSELF FROM EVEN MINOR TRANSACTION SUCH AS [illegible] SALE BY ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY TO GABONESE GOVT. [illegible] DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, THE USG IS [illegible]EDLY LIKELY TO SUFFER THE MOST, THE UNDERLYING [illegible] OF THE SITUATION NOTWITHSTANDING. THE NEED FOR THE [illegible] TO DEFEND ITSELF POLITICALLY IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA

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IS SOMETHING RAMI AND BURGO CAN READILY UNDERSTAND, AND DEPT HOPES YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY THIS POINT OF VIEW ON BASIS GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED WITH BOTH. GDS POGREN

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

SUBJ: DC-8

REF: STATE 186683

DEPT UNDERSTANDS COMPLICATIONS DEVELOPING ON XMB LOAN GUARANTEE APPLICATION; THEREFORE TAKE NO ACTION ON REFTEL UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE. ROGERS

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186683

EXDIS

SUBJ: DC-8

REF: LIBREVILLE 720, STATE 1793503

1. WHILE GABONESE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN ORAL ASSURANCE AND AFRETAIR HAS SUBMITTED WRITTEN STATEMENT REGARDING USE OF AIRCRAFT, THE SUSPICION THAT THE PLANE MIGHT BE USED IN RHODESIAN TRADE REMAINS. THE UK IS FOLLOWING THE MATTER CLOSELY AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY, AND HAS SHOWN GROWING UNEASE THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE UTILIZED BY GROUP WITH LONG HISTORY OF ENGAGING IN THAT TRADE. IN ADDITION, FACT THAT GABONESE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING INTEREST IN EXECUTIVE JET WOULD INDICATE THAT EVEN THE PERSONAL USE OF THE DC-8 BY PRESIDENT BONGO AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE LIMITED. EXECUTIVE JET PURCHASE COUPLED WITH AGREEMENT WITH AIR AFRIQUE/UTA LIMITING ROUTES THAT AIRCRAFT CAN FLY WITHOUT PERMISSION RAISES FURTHER QUESTION ABOUT ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF AIRCRAFT ON ROUTES CITED BY GABONESE- ON BASIS OF STRICTLY COMMERCIAL SALE U.S. HAS ISSUED EXPORT LICENSE ON

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ASSURANCES FROM PURCHASER, AFRETAIR. WHILE DAVIN LETTER TO SC PRESIDENT IS USEFUL STATEMENT OF GABONESE INTENTIONS, QUESTION OF CURRENT GABONESE POLICY TOWARD RHODESIAN TRADE WAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED.

2. SINCE THE USG MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE SALE BEYOND THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXPORT LICENSE (REF B), DEPT CONSIDERS

THAT WRITTEN ASSURANCE SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM GABONESE GOVERNMENT. IF APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS RELUCTANT ISSUE STATEMENT WITHOUT YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH BONGO, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH MINISTER ONDO REFERRING TO HIS PREVIOUS ORAL ASSURANCE AND REQUEST CONFIRMATION IN WRITING THAT THE AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY MANNER INIMICAL TO THE UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. GDS IRWIN

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TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

S E C R E T STATE 045961

EXDIS

SUBJ: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 199

YOU SHOULD DRAW FROM FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR DEMARCHE IN THE EVENT NGOUABI AGREES TO BONGO'S SUGGESTION THAT YOU BE RECEIVED IN BRAZZAVILLE.

1. PAST DIFFICULTIES:

PRESIDENT NGOUABI WAS FACTUALLY CORRECT IN HIS AFP INTERVIEW WHEN HE SAID THAT BRAZZAVILLE DID NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SUSPEND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WASHINGTON MADE THAT DECISION UNILATERALLY. HOWEVER, THAT DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL STATIONED IN BRAZZAVILLE IN 1965, THOUGH ENTITLED TO FULL DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, WERE BEING SUBJECTED TO ARRESTS AND DETENTION INCOMMUNICADO (DETAILS SEPTEL) BY THE PREVIOUS CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THE USG WILL ALWAYS INSIST UPON PROPER TREATMENT OF ITS DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, OUR BELIEF AND FIRM EXPECTA-

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TION IS THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH INCIDENTS TO RECUR IN THE EVENT AN AMERICAN EMBASSY UERE TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN BRAZZAVILLE. WE THEREFORE DO NOT WISH TO DWELL ON THE PROBLEM NOR DO WE REQUEST ANY FORMAL ASSURANCES ABOUT THE FUTURE. WE MERELY WISH THE PRESENT

GOVERNMENT TO BE AWARE OF OUR SENSITIVITIES DERIVED FROM OUR EARLIER EXPERIENCE.

2. MODALITIES OF RESUMING RELATIONS

A. WE WOULD HOPE THAT LOW KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS COULD BE MADE STATING SIMPLY THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO RE-OPEN EMBASSY OFFICES IN THE RESPECTIVE CAPITALS, AND THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO THE EXTENT PREVIOUSLY SUSPENDED HAVE BEEN RESUMED. IF THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT IS AGREEABLE, SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE DURING A PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZZAVILLE IN MID-APRIL BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM WHO WILL BE TRAVELING IN CENTRAL AFRICA AT THAT TIME. IF RELATIONS CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED, WE WOULD PLAN TO MAINTAIN AN EMBASSY OF MODEST SIZE SIMILAR TO THOSE WE HAVE IN NEIGHBORING LIBREVILLE AND BANGUI.

B. REFERENCE TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISE, YOU MAY EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS NOT AN ISSUE SINCE THE USG IN SUSPENDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NEVER WITHDREW RECOGNITION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CONGO.

3. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

IF THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT INQUIRES ABOUT FUTURE AID PROSPECTS, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE ORIENTATION OF OUR AID PROGRAM IN AFRICA HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE 1965, WITH THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE REGIONAL MEASLES-SMALLPOX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN OPERATIVE IN BRAZZAVILLE DESPITE THE SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE APPRECIATE THE GOC'S FACILITATING THE TRAVEL TO THE CONGO OF AID PERSONNEL ADMINISTERING THIS PROGRAM. INQUIRIES ABOUT

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SPECIFIC FUTURE AID POSSIBILITIES SHOULD BE PARRIED BY THE STATEMENT THAT THIS IS AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT OF DETAILED DISCUSSION AFTER RELATIONS HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO NORMAL, BUT POINTING OUT THAT SEVERE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS PRECLUDE ANY HOPE FOR MAJOR TRANSFER OF RESOURCES.

4. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

BRAZZAVILLE RADIO HAS FREQUENTLY BROADCAST VITRIOLIC WORLD SUCH AS SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. WE FEEL THAT SINCERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OVER POLICIES IN THOSE AREAS SHOULD NOT IMPEDE THE CONDUCT OF FRIENDLY

BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGO, ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY AND NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT WOULD BE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES MIGHT BE THE SUBJECT OF MUTUAL SELF-RESTRAINT WITH RESPECT TO THE OUTPUT OF OFFICIAL MEDIA.

5. YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO UTILIZE FOREGOING WITH MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY DEPENDING UPON DEVELOPING TRENDS IN CONVERSATIONS. WHILE MAKING APPROPRIATE POINTS, AND PLACING EMPHASIS WHERE YOU FEEL IT WILL DO THE MOST GOOD, YOU SHOULD AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE SETTING PRECONDITIONS OR OTHERWISE ATTACHING STRINGS TO OUR OFFER TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS. ROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045256

EXDIS

SUBJ: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 199

1. FOLLOWING ARE INCIDENTS WHICH LED TO CLOSURE EMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE:

2. IN NOVEMBER 1964, STANLY BARANSON, EMBASSY AID AFFAIRS OFFICER, ARRESTED, JAILED MORE THAN 2 DAYS, THEN EXPELLED. BARANSON'S VISA HAD EXPIRED, BUT ACTING ON CONGOLESE GOVT INSTRUCTIONS, HE HAD APPLIED FOR RENEWAL IN NORMAL FASHION AND WAS AWAITING ACTION BY CONGOLESE GOVT WHEN ARRESTED.

3. IN JULY 1965, TWO VOA EMPLOYEES, JACK ADKINS (AMERICAN) AND MARCO LEFEBRE (BELGIAN) WERE ARRESTED WHILE IN BRAZZAVILLE TO COVER AFRICAN GAMES. THEY WERE HELD IN-COMMUNICADO, PHYSICALLY MISTREATED, DENIED FOOD AND WATER, AND FINALLY EXPELLED. THEY HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO BRAZZAVILLE WITHOUT VISAS, AS HAD MANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO CAME TO BRAZZA-VILLE FOR THE GAMES, UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS IN FORCE AT TIME.

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4. ON JULY 27, 1965, WILLIAM K. MACKEY ARRIVED IN BRAZZAVILLE ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY AS ECONOMIC OFFICER. THROUGH ERROR AT CONGOLESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON, HIS VISA VALIDATED BEGINNING SEPT 15, 1965, INSTEAD OF JULY 15. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF ERROR AND TWICE HAD ASSURED EMBASSY THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH MACKEY'S VISA AND THAT HE COULD PROCEED TO BRAZZAVILLE AS PLANNED. ON HIS ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, MACKEY DETAINED FOR 6 HOURS, THEN HELD UNDER GUARD AT HOTEL OVERNIGHT. FOLLOWING MORNING HE WAS PLACED ABOARD PLANE FOR PARIS. THROUGHOUT PERIOD HE WAS UNDER DETENTION, EMBASSY REFUSED ACCESS TO MACKEY AND EMBASSY NOT INFORMED OF HIS EXPULSION.

5. TALKING POINTS FOR BRAZZAVILLE DEMARCHE PROVIDED SEPTEL. GP-4 ROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T STATE 040436

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: STATE 39515

1. DEPT NOTES THAT NGOUABI WILL BE MAKING CRUCIAL VISIT TO PARIS MARCH 12-15 FOR DELICATE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE FRENCH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT. IT WOULD BE PRUDENT, THEREFORE, FOR MCKESSON TO SCHEDULE HIS MEETING WITH BONGO ON US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS FOR MOST OPPORTUNE TIME AFTER MARCH 15 SO AS NOT TO COMPLICATE NGOUABI TALKS IN PARIS.

2. AS INDICATED EARLIER, EMBASSIES PARIS, BONN AND KINSHASA WILL BE AUTHORIZED INFORM HOST GOVTS OF REFTEL INITIATIVE AS SOON AS MCKESSON HAS SPOKEN TO BONGO AND LATTER HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL. GP-3. ROGERS

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S E C R E T STATE 039515

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SUBJ: US-BRAZZAVILLE RELATIONS

REF: LIBREVILLE 149 (NOTAL)

1. REQUEST YOU DELIVER ORALLY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT BONGO.

2. QTE MR. PRESIDENT: AS YOU ARE AWARE, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE 1965. DURING MOST OF THIS PERIOD, RADIO BRAZZAVILLE INFORMED THE WORLD REGULARLY THAT DISAGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICIES MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CONGO TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT NGOUABI TOLD AN INTERVIEWER OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE THAT HE NOW CONSIDERS IT POSSIBLE FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US TO BE RESUMED. A MAJOR THEME OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADMINIS-

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

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TRATION IS THAT WE SEEK FRIENDLY AND HONEST COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS, REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES WE MAY HAVE WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN POLICIES OR POLITICAL SYSTEMS. AS YOU HAVE SEEN FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN CENTRAL AFRICA, MR. PRESIDENT, WE BELIEVE THIS POLICY OF NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION WITH ALL NATIONS TENDS TO PROMOTE MODERATION AND STABILITY AS OPPOSED TO EXTREMISM AND TENSIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE FURTHER PRESIDENT NGOUABI'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE US.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE CONGO HAVE BEEN NONEXISTENT FOR SEVEN YEARS, WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR A USEFUL WAY TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT NGOUABI'S GOVERNMENT. I HAVE ADVISED PRESIDENT NIXON THAT IN VIEW OF YOUR LONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT NGOUABI, YOUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING PEACE AND MODERATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA, AND YOUR SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLICIES IN AFRICA, YOU ARE THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON TO INTERVENE ON OUR BEHALF. CONSEQUENTLY, AT THE BEHEST OF PRESIDENT NIXON, I WISH TO SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OPENING A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NGOUABI. SPECIFICALLY, I WISH TO SEND AMBASSADOR MCKESSON TO BRAZZAVILLE ON A CONFIDENTIAL MISSION TO DETERMINE IF PRESIDENT NGOUABI'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S TRUE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE IDEA OF RESUMING RELATIONS WITH THE US. I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL, THEREFORE, IF YOU COULD SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT NGOUABI REQUESTING THAT HE RECEIVE AMBASSADOR MCKESSON AT THE CONVENIENCE OF THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT, AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY, FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE CONGO.

I HESITATE TO LAY CLAIM TO YOUR VALUABLE TIME, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT IN VIEW OF THE STRENGTHENED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR, I FEEL THAT I CAN MAKE THIS REQUEST AS A FRIEND. PRESIDENT NIXON AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS DELICATE AND IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. WILLIAM P. ROGERS UNQTE. GP-1. ROGERS

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 056

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47
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN:OSM
2-23-72 EXT 22080
APPROVED BY AF:DDNEWSOM
S/S- MR. MILLER
EUR - MR. LONGMYER

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R 241638Z FEB 72
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 031348

EXDIS

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH CONGO-B

REF: (A) PARIS 3253; (B) LIBREVILLE 128

1. DEPT TENDS TO INTERPRET NGOUABI PRESS STATEMENT REPORTED REFTELS AS FAIRLY UNAMBIGUOUS SIGNAL THAT RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE WELCOME. PRESS STATEMENT ALSO CONSISTENT WITH EVENTS PAST FEW DAYS LEADING TO NGOUABI SUCCESSFULLY CARRYING OUT SUBSTANTIAL PURGE OF EXTREME LEFTWING ELEMENTS WHO, IN PAST, HAVE CONSTITUTED MAJOR OBSTACLE TO RESTORATION OF US DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN BRAZZAVILLE.

2. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, DEPT WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE DISCREET CONTACT IN BRAZZAVILLE TO PROBE FURTHER AND CLARIFY CONGOLESE ATTITUDES ABOUT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS A NATURAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE NGOUABI PRESS STATEMENT. DEPT WOULD LIKE YOU TO UNDERTAKE THIS MISSION TO BRAZZAVILLE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO THE DESIRABILITY AND EFFICACY OF A REQUEST TO PRESIDENT BONGO THAT HE SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO NGOUABI INTRODUCING YOU AND INFORMING HIM OF

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THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT. IF YOU BELIEVE ABOVE PLAN IS FEASIBLE, WOULD LIKE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AS TO FORM OF REQUEST TO BONGO.

3. FOR PARIS AND BONN: IN EVENT THE ABOVE PROPOSAL MOVES AHEAD, YOU WILL BE AUTHORIZED INFORM HOST GOVTS. GP-3 IRWIN

SECRET

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EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET 469

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 /026 R

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:HJCOHEN
APPROVED BY: AF - C. ROBERT MOORE
AF/C - JAPARKER
S/S - MR. MILLER

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R 111754Z SEP 71
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

S E C R E T STATE 167392

EXDIS

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: LIBREVILLE 611

1. SENDING SEPARATE TELEGRAM WITH SCENARIO OF EVENTS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA AS WE KNOW THEM.

2. ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION IS NECESSARILY INCOMPLETE BECAUSE OF ERDOS' ILLNESS ON AUGUST 30, HE WAS REPORTING REGULARLY UNTIL THAT DATE AND THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION OF ANY OF THE WILD STORIES MENTIONED BY ZAMPETTI. ON THE CONTRARY, ALL INDICATIONS WERE THAT ERDOS WAS AVOIDING ANY CONTACT WITH GOEG ON SUBJECT OF ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT. YOU MAY USE BACKGROUND INFO IN SEPTEL WHICH ALSO BEING SENT ROME, TO BRIEF ZAMPETTI AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PERSONS. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT ON BASIS ALL INFO AVAILABLE TO US, TRAGEDY IN EMBASSY RESULTING IN ADMIN OFFICER LEAHY'S DEATH AND ERDOS' MENTAL BREAKDOWN HAD NO CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT.

3. DEPT HAS NO INFO ABOUT COUP ATTEMPT IN RIO MUNI, AND IF GOG HAS ANY DETAILS TRANSMITTED BY ITS CONSUL GENER[illegible] IN BATA IT WOULD BE USEFUL HERE.

GP-3. [illegible]RS

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ORIGIN SS-45

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 163434

EXDIS

REF: LIBREVILLE 802; STATE 162809

YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH BONGO TO DELIVER DINNER INVITATION IN ACCORDANCE DEPTEL AND NOT RAISE MATTER OF ACCUSATIONS UNLESS BONGO DOES. SUGGEST YOU PURSUE LATTER QUESTION WITH OKUMBA, POINTING OUT HARM SUCH GROUNDLESS CHARGES DO TO OUR RELATIONS. IRWIN

SECRET

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54
ORIGIN CPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 PM-05 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 SS-20 USIA [illegible]

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66610
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APPROVED BY:HDAVIS ASST CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
AF/C:SULLIVAN P/INFO AF/CARTER JR S/S/[illegible]
WHITE HOUSE:WRIGHT

R 111456Z AUG 70
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 129449

PLEASE DELIVER TO HIS EXCELLENCY ALBERT BERNARD BONGO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GABON, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17 THE FOLLOWING. QTE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKE PLEASURE IN COMMEMORATING THIS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GABON. ON THIS OCCASION THEIR SINCERE GOOD WISHES AND ASSURANCES OF WARM FRIENDSHIP, TOGETHER WITH MY OWN, ARE EXTENDED TO YOU AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GABON WITH THE HEARTFELT DESIRE THAT THROUGH FRUITFUL COOPERATION WE MAY CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO THE BUILDING OF A BETTER WORLD AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. RICHARD NIXON. UNQTE.
ROGERS

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SECRET 556

PAGE 01 STATE 087912

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ORIGIN SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 R

66637
DRAFTED BY: AF/C JAMCKESSON
APPROVED BY: AF DDNEWSOM
AF/I AMB WITMAN
S/S MR HORNBLOW

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R 060035Z JUN 70
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

S E C R E T STATE 087912

EXDIS

REF: STATE 85784

1. AT DEPT REQUEST, GABONESE AMBASSADOR CALLED DEPT JUNE 3 AND WAS INFORMED OF RECENT INCIDENT BY COUNTRY DIRECTOR. AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM LIBREVILLE, EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND REGRET OVER INCIDENT AND STATED HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVT.

2. AMBASSADOR STATED HE WAS CERTAIN INCIDENT IN NO WAY REFLECTED ATTITUDE OF GOG TOWARD US AS HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN ASSURED BY PRESIDENT BONGO OF PRESIDENT'S STRONG DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED HIS GOVT'S DESIRE FOR US AID IN RAILROAD PROJECT AND FACT THAT PRESIDENT SENDING HIS CHILDREN FOR VACATION IN US THIS MONTH AS EVIDENCE OF GABON'S DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT HE MIGHT BE RETURNING TO GABON IN NEAR FUTURE IN CONNECTION WITH IBRD MISSION SCHEDULED TO DEPART SHORTLY FOR FURTHER ON-THE-SCENE INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION OF RAILROAD PROJECT.

GP-3
ROGERS

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ORIGIN SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 R

66635
DRAFTED BY: AF/C:JAMCKESSON
APPROVED BY: AF-DDNEWSOM
AF-MR.MOORE
EUR/FBX-MR.TANGUY
EUR-MR.SPRINGSTEEN
S/S-DIRKGLEYSTEEN

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P 040038Z JUN 70
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 085784

EXDIS

SUBJECT: GABONESE ACCUSATION OF US SUBVERSION

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 486, (B) LIBREVILLE 487: (C) STATE 84825

1. DEPT CONCURS YOUR RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL-B) THAT YOU REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH BONGO TO MAKE ORAL POINTS WITHOUT PRESENTING AIDE MEMOIR. IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT YOU ACTING ON INSTRUCTION FROM DEPT.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR JACQUES WAS CALLED TO DEPT TODAY FOR DISCUSSION OF EVENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL-A. DEPT OFFICER EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT BOTH GABONESE ACTION AND FRENCH ROLE. JACQUES WAS REQUESTED CONVEY THIS FEELING TO FOREIGN OFFICE AND TO DETERMINE IF THERE ANY EXPLANATION OF BIZARRE AND UNACCEPTABLE TREATMENT OF US CHARGE. DISCUSSION WAS FRIENDLY AND IN LOW KEY. PROTEST WAS NOT REPEAT NOT MADE. HOPE WAS EXPRESSED THAT IN SPIRIT OF RECENT FRIENDLY US-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA, FRENCH EMBASSY AND FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS WOULD SEEK TO ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE OF GOOD US-GABONESE RELATIONS. POSSIBLE ROLE

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OF FRENCH OFFICER IN EXACERBATING THESE RELATIONS THROUGH LEVELING OF PATENTLY FALSE ACCUSATION DIFFICULT THEREFORE FOR USG TO UNDERSTAND.

3. GABONESE AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO COME TO DEPT THURSDAY MORNING. DEPT COMMENTS TO GABONESE AMBASSADOR WILL GENERALLY PARALLEL YOUR DEMARCHE TO BONGO AS OUTLINED REFTEL-B. ROGERS

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ORIGIN SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 R

66638
DRAFTED BY:AF/C:JAMCKESSON
APPROVED BY:C:MR PEDERSEN
AF:MR CARTER
S/S:MR IRONS
S/S-EX:MR MOTT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

S E C R E T STATE 010849

EXDIS

REF: LIBREVILLE 81

1. AS BONGO WILL SOON FIND OUT, IF HE DOES NOT ALREADY KNOW, SECRETARY FLYING FROM KINSHASA TO DOUALA FEB 18. FAILURE TO ASK FOR OVERFLIGHT, WHICH REPRESENTS NATURAL ROUTE, COULD BE VIEWED BY BONGO AS UNFRIENDLY IN ITSELF. PARTICULARLY AS THIS WOULD PLACE GABON IN SAME CONTEXT AS CONGO (B) WHICH SECRETARY'S PLANE MAKING OBVIOUS DETOUR TO AVOID.

2. BELIEVE THAT ON BALANCE NORMAL PROCEDURE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED AND REQUEST YOU SUBMIT NOTE ON OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE. GP-3
ROGERS

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ORIGIN SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 R

66635
DRAFTED BY: C:RFPEDERSEN
APPROVED BY: C:MR.PEDERSEN
P:MR.MCCLOSKEY(INDRAFT)
AF:MR.NEWSOM
S/S:ROBERTL.BROWN
AF/P:JOHNHICKS
AF/I:MR.WITMAN(INDRAFT)
AF:MR.RIZIK
---------- 080432

P 172057Z JAN 70
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008072

EXDIS

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF ANNOUNCEMENT WE ARE PLANNING TO RELEASE AT NOON (WDC TIME) PRESS BRIEFING ON MONDAY JANUARY 19. DRAFT IS NOT REPEAT NOT FINAL BUT WILL BE ALONG THESE GENERAL LINES.

YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT THIS INFORMATION ON MONDAY, MAKING CLEAR ACTUAL TEXT MAY BE DIFFERENT.

WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WANT HOST GOVERNMENTS TO RELEASE LIST OF POSTS SECRETARY WILL BE VISITING, AS WE WOULD LIKE TO

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DO THAT IN WASHINGTON.

2. FYI, NIGERIANS HAVE REQUESTED WE NOT REPEAT NOT TREAT VISIT TO NIGERIA AS SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE SEEKING TO MEET THAT REQUEST IN MANNER OF ANNOUNCEMENT. POSSIBILITY VISIT TO NIGERIA HAD IN FACT BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. POSTS SHOULD AVOID SPECULATION ON NIGERIAN PORTION, AND WE PARTICULARLY DO NOT REPEAT NOT WANT OTHER GOVERNMENTS RELEASING INFORMATION ON NIGERIAN VISIT. WE WILL ALSO RELEASE DATES OF EACH STOP ON VISIT AT BRIEFING END FYI.

3. QUOTE SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS WILL LEAVE FEBRUARY 7 ON A 10-COUNTRY VISIT TO AFRICA, THE FIRST SUCH VISIT BY A U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 23.

THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT MOROCCO, TUNISIA, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, ZAMBIA, CONGO (KINSHASA), CAMEROON, NIGERIA, GHANA AND LIBERIA.

MR. ROGERS FIRST VISITED THE CONTINENT IN 1960 AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT THE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO. AT THAT TIME HE ALSO VISITED SENEGAL, LIBERIA, DAHOMEY, AND NIGERIA. HIS INTEREST IN AFRICA WAS FURTHER EXPANDED WHEN HE SERVED AS A DELEGATE TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1965 AND ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA IN 1967.

THE VISIT IS BEING MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE SECRETARY'S TERM OF OFFICE IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROWING U.S. INTEREST IN AFRICA. THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS AND WILL GIVE THE SECRETARY AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACING AFRICAN NATIONS.

THE TRIP WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN OCCASION TO DISCUSS U.S. AFRICAN POLICY WITH ALL THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN AFRICA GATHERED AT A CONFERENCE OF U.S. CHIEFS OF MISSION IN KINSHASA. AT THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE, SECRETARY ROGERS WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF A THIRD (38) OF ALL AMERICAN EMBASSIES (117) IN THE

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WORLD.

AMONG THOSE ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY ROGERS WILL BE MRS. ROGERS, COUNSELOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RICHARD F. PEDERSEN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND MRS. DAVID D. NEWSOM, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS W. BEVERLY CARTER, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PRESS RELATIONS ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY. UNQUOTE.
ROGERS

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CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: R.J.MCCLOSKEY
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APPROVED BY S/S-O: N.C. LEDSKY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008081

EXDIS

REF: STATE 8072

BECAUSE OF PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TELEVISION INTERVIEW FOR JANUARY 18 WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT QUESTION ON NIGERIA MAY THEN ARISE, THE SECRETARY MAY DISCLOSE ITINERARY OF HIS AFRICAN TRIP DURING THE PROGRAM. HE WOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE TRIP IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19. ROGERS

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ORIGIN AF 18

INFO CPR 02, JPM 04, H 02, NSC 10, O 02, OPR 02, P 04, RSC 01, SS 20, SY 03,

USIA 12, /080 R

66644
DRAFTED BY: AF/CW:WSCLARKE
APPROVED BY: AF:C. ROBERT MOORE
AF/CW:MR. SCHAUFELE
S/S:MR. BRANDT
WH:ROGER MORRIS (SUB)
S:CPR:MR. KING

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P 260059Z APR 69
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065024

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT TO US

REF: LIBREVILLE 412, 414 AND 415; STATE 56338

1. DEPT MADE CLEAR IN ITS REFTEL THAT REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN FIRST LADIES COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL DATES FOR TRIP KNOWN AND COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOG THAT REQUEST FOR WHITE HOUSE CALL BY MRS. BONGO BEING MADE. HOWEVER, GOG SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT, WHILE WE WELCOME VISIT AND WILL BE GLAD TO HELP GABONESE EMBASSY IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, WE REGRET THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE. THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT APPOINTMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING. YOU MAY INFORM FANGUINOVENY THAT IT MOST UNLIKELY MRS. NIXON WILL BE ABLE ATTEND RECEPTION GIVEN BY MRS. BONGO. HOPE YOU CAN EXPRESS IN SUITABLE MANNER OUR UNHAPPINESS AT BEING PLACED IN POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING POSITION BY UNCLEARED GOG ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR ITINERARY AND PRO-

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GRAM, WHICH, IF APPROPRIATE, WE COULD USE IN TALKS WITH
EMBASSY. GP-3. ROGERS

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN AF 18

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H 02,NSC 10,O 02,OPR 02,P 04,SS 20,SY 03,USIA 12,L 03,/136 R

66646
DRAFTED BY AF/CW WESCHAUFELE
APPROVED BY AF:CW WESCHAUFELE JR
WHITE HOUSE MR MORRIS
AF AMB MOORE
S/S MR BROWN

015070

P R 142123Z MAY 69
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076416

REF: LIBREVILLE 463

1. FANGUINOVENY ACCOMPANIED BY BADINGA CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR MAY 13AND IMMEDIATELY RAISED QUESTION OF BONGO VISIT.

2. COUNTRY DIRECTOR PREFACED REPLY BY NOTING THAT WE CONSIDERED US-GABONESE RELATIONS GRADUALLY IMPROVING EVEN THOUGH WE STILL SOMETIMES WONDERED IF SOME "THIRD PARTY" OCCASIONALLY SOUGHT TO CREATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, I.E. REPORTS OF US PLOTTING TO UNSEAT GOG AS AMBASSADOR INFORMED BY BONGO IN JANUARY.

3. TURNING TO BONGO VISIT COUNTRY DIRECTOR TOLD FANGUINOVENY THAT WE WELL AWARE OF BONGO DESIRE MAKE US VISIT WHICH UNDER CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER NORMAL USAGE AND COURTESY DICTATES THAT THERE BE MUTUAL AGREEMENT ABOUT TIMING AND OTHER PLANNING DETAILS OF EVEN PRIVATE VISIT OF FRIENDLY CHIEF OF STATE.

4. US PRESUME - AND FANGUINOVENY AGREED - THAT BONGO VISIT WITHOUT SEEING PRESIDENT NOT DESIRABLE FROM GABONESE POINT OF VIEW AND THUS NOT LIKELY TO SERVE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN US. THEREFORE IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF FANGUINOVENY

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WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO ASSURE THAT PRIVATE BONGO VISIT NOT BE SCHEDULED WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION AND MUTUAL PLANNING BY TWO GOVTS. IN ANY CASE THE PERIOD JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION.

5. COUNTRY DIRECTOR DREW ON MRS. BONGO'S TRIP TO US AS INDICATIVE OF DANGERS OF LACK OF COORDINATION. WE INFORMED ONLY FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF HER ARRIVAL AND THEN BY MEANS OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WHICH WE NOT CONSULTED AND WHICH ALSO STATED SHE WOULD CALL ON MRS. NIXON. THIS HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE REACTION HERE AND THERE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT MRS. NIXON WILL BE ABLE RECEIVE MRS. BONGO.

6. COUNTRY DIRECTOR WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT NEW AMDINISTRATION HAD BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY FOUR MONTHS AND HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH GREAT NUMBER OF OBLIGATIONS AND DEMANDS ON ITS TIME AND RESOURCES. IT PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION OF ALL THESE MATTERS IN ORDERLY FASHION BUT OBVIOUSLY CERTAIN OF THEM ARE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO US AND THUS PLACED AT TOP OF OUR PRIORITY LIST. WE HOPE OUR FRIENDS WILL UNDERSTAND THIS.

7. FANGUINOVENY TOOK ABOVE EXPLANATION OUR PROBLEMS IN STRIDE AND, WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT, INDICATED HE WOULD GET MESSAGE TO BONGO. MOST PROFUSELY APOLOGIZED FOR GABONESE GAFFE ON MRS. BONGO'S VISIT AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SERVICES WE HAD RENDERED HER. TO OUR CONSTERNATION BADINGA SAID MRS. BONGO NOT DEPARTING US UNTIL JUNE 2 SO THAT SHE CAN TAKE PANAM FLIGHT. (WE NOTE APPARENT GABONESE DESIRE THAT SHE NOT TRANSIT PARIS EITHER GOING OR COMING.)

8. ALSO INFORMED FANGUINOVENY THAT REP LENORE SULLIVAN HOSTING LUNCHEON FOR MRS. BONGO AT CAPITOL MAY 15 AND MRS. PALMER DOING SAME AT BLAIR HOUSE MAY 16.
GP-3. RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL 385

PAGE 01 STATE 065024

89
ORIGIN AF 18

INFO CPR 02,JPM 04,H 02,NSC 10,O 02,OPR 02,P 04,RSC 01,SS 20,SY 03,

USIA 12,/080 R

66644
DRAFTED BY: AF/CW:WSCLARKE
APPROVED BY: AF:C. ROBERT MOORE
AF/CW:MR. SCHAUFELE
S/S:MR. BRANDT
WH:ROGER MORRIS (SUB)
S:CPR:MR. KING

032015

P 260059Z APR 69
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065024

SUBJECT: MADAME BONGO VISIT TO US

REF: LIBREVILLE 412, 414 AND 415; STATE 56338

1. DEPT MADE CLEAR IN ITS REFTEL THAT REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN FIRST LADIES COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL DATES FOR TRIP KNOWN AND COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOG THAT REQUEST FOR WHITE HOUSE CALL BY MRS. BONGO BEING MADE. HOWEVER, GOG SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT, WHILE WE WELCOME VISIT AND WILL BE GLAD TO HELP GABONESE EMBASSY IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, WE REGRET THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE. THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT APPOINTMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING. YOU MAY INFORM FANGUINOVENY THAT IT MOST UNLIKELY MRS. NIXON WILL BE ABLE ATTEND RECEPTION GIVEN BY MRS. BONGO. HOPE YOU CAN EXPRESS IN SUITABLE MANNER OUR UNHAPPINESS AT BEING PLACED IN POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING POSITION BY UNCLEARED GOG ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR ITINERARY AND PRO-

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

GRAM, WHICH, IF APPROPRIATE, WE COULD USE IN TALKS WITH
EMBASSY. GP-3. ROGERS

000/10/LBLO

NODIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

P 250825Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2908
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1114

5896Q
1969 OCT 25 AM 6:34

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
'69 OCT 25 AM 11:22

NODIS

SUBJECT: ARDIS NETTLE-NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF

DEWEY FOR FERGUSON

1. ASSUME YOU DISCUSSED MOST OF SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE WITH MBANEFO IN ABIDJAN. THIS IS VIEWPOINT FROM DISCUSSION WITH COOKEY OCTOBER 23 IN OWERRI.

2. COOKEY SAID THE U.S. FORMULA WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A GUARANTEE. SAID IF HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT MEETING WITH BIAFRAN DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, HE WOULD HAVE STRESSED ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR SANCTIONS, AS HE DID RE GUARANTEES FOR CROSS RIVER. I MENTIONED OUR IMPRESSION THAT BIAFRANS SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE ON IMPORTANT MATTERS. COOKEY SAID THIS WAS TRUE, BUT EKE, OKIGBO GOT OUT OF TOUCH.

3. CONCERNING THE BASIC TURNDOWN OF DAY FLIGHTS, I ASKED COOKEY IF HE REALIZED WHAT IT HAD COST, WAS COSTING BIAFRA. SAID HE DID. WITHOUT EVEN MENTIONING 7 POINT CTAFF RAISED BY EKE, HE SAID IT WAS SIMPLY A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN THE PROPAGANDA LOSS AND SECURITY OF THE STATE. MILITARY, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATTER, CARRIED THE DAY. THEN IN MOOD OF LINGERING DOUBT EO UNCOMMON TO BIAFRANS, COOKEY ASKED HOW I WOULD HAVE DICIDED IF IN HIS SHOES. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT CONTINUITY OF JCA NIGHT FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE ANSWERED THE STATE SECURITY PROBLEM AND I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL SO AS TO REALIZE SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE.

4. COOKEY ADMITTED FUTURE COURSE OF JCA WAS REAL CONCERN. SAID HE HAD HEARD "HAWKS" IN DEPARTMENT WERE PRESSURING JCA INTO GOING DAYLIGHT. SAW THIS AS REAL REASON FMG WANTED DAY FLIGHTS -- ULTIMATELY TO GET EVERYONE LEGAL AND DAYLIGHT. HE HAD JUST RECEIVED JCA INVITATION FOR 6-MAN DELEGATION TO TALK. WAS COOL TO IDEA SINCE IT REALLY OFFERED NOTHING NEW. I NOTED IT WAS IN HIS INTEREST TO TALK, HOWEVER. DISCUSSED "FLY AND TALK" ADVANTAGES. COOKEY CONCLUDED THAT "IF NIGERIANS ACCEPT, THEN WE WILL SURELY SEND SOMEONE "TO JCA TALKS."

5. ON HIS HEALTH, COOKEY SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN WELL SINCE GENEVA -- "TOO MUCH HOTEL DES ALPES." I SAID WE WERE HOPING

SECRET

HE COULD MAKE A COMEBACK IN GENEVA. COOKEY SAW NO CHANCE OF PROGRESS UNLESS FMG FIELDED AN APPROPRIATE DEGEGATION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT OBI'S HANG-UP ON THE "NICETY" OF REJECTING FMG RIGHT TO CUSTOMS INSPECTION ON ENTERING TERRITORIAL WATERS, HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS. SEEMED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN DEMONSTRATING FLEXIBILITY ON CROSS RIVER WHICH MIGHT RECOUP SOME OF BIAFRA'S LOSSES ON DAY FLIGHTS.

6. HAD ABOUT AN HOUR WITH COOKEY BEFORE HE RACED OFF TO MEETING WITH "H.E." SAID HE WANTED ANOTHER MEETING BEFORE MY TAKE-OFF SATURDAY NIGHT. GP-3

FUNKHOUSER

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

'69 OCT 25 PM 1:14

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM
1969 OCT 25 AM 6:32

6

P 250930Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2910
BT
S E C R E T NOFORN LIBREVILLE 1118

5897Q

NODIS

SUBJECT: NETTLE ONE - NIGERIA/BIAFRA

1. BIAFRAN REP UGWU, WHO SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MEETINGS IN BIAFRA, CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST AFTERNOON OCTOBER 24. REFERRING TO MY PARTICIPATION IN AMB. FERGUSON'S MEETING WITH SIR LOUIS, UGWU SAID HE FELT IT APPROPRIATE TO KEEP ME POSTED ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S DELIBERATIONS.

2. CLAIMING HE WAS NOT RPT NOT INFORMED RE DETAILS OF BIAFRAN RESPONSE, UGWU STATED SIMPLY THAT OJUKWU'S REPLY WAS TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY TO FERGUSON IN ABIDJAN (SIC). IN FOLLOWING DISCUSSION UGWU VOLUNTEERED ONLY THAT IT APPEARED FERGUSON OFFER "RAISED MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT TRIED TO SOLVE."

3. AS BACKGROUND, UGWU CLAIMED ULI AIRPORT WAS FAR FROM SATURATED AND THAT NIGHT FLIGHTS WERE DOWN TO ONE-HALF CAPACITY. HE THOUGHT THIS COULD EASILY BE RECTIFIED IF ICRC WOULD RETURN TO PREVIOUS PROCEDURES OR RELEASE RELIEF STOCKS NOW DETERIORATING IN AFRICA TO THOSE AGENCIES CONTINUING TO FLY AND IF IT WOULD PLACE AIRCRAFT (OR FINANCING THERFORE) AT AT DISPOSAL THOSE AGENCIES.

4. UGWU STATED THAT BIAS PLANES OPERAZING OUT OF LIBREVILLE UNDER CHARTER TO OPERATION AFRICA CONCERN HAD NOT RPT NOT ENOUGH RELIEF STOCKS TO KEEP SECOND DC-6 FULLY UTILIZED. SAID OAC PRESENTLY AWAITING ARRIVAL ANOTHER 200 TONS BUT THAT THIS WOULD ONLY LAST TEN DAYS.

5. I ASKED UGWU WHETHER HE HAD ANYTHING NEW ON PRESIDENT BONGO'S PEACE INITIATIVE. UGWU SQUIRMED BUT ALLEGED HE HAD NOTHING.

6. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE BIAFRAN FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF SURVIVAL APPEARS TO BE THAT ANY MOVE TO DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS WILL LEAD INEVITABLY TO MILITARY CHECKMATE. THE ODD COROLLARY IS THAT BODIES ARE MORE EXPENDABLE THAN ARMS. GP-3

FUNKHOUSER

SECRET

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET

P 250825Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2908
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1114

5896Q
1969 OCT 25 AM 6:34

9.

NODIS

SUBJECT: ARDIS NETTLE-NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF

DEWEY FOR FERGUSON

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3. CONCERNING THE BASIC TURNDOWN OF DAY FLIGHTS, I ASKED COOKEY IF HE REALIZED WHAT IT HAD COST, WAS COSTING BIAFRA. SAID HE DID. WITHOUT EVEN MENTIONING 7 POINT CTAFF RAISED BY EKE, HE SAID IT WAS SIMPLY A TRADE-OFF BETWEEN THE PROPAGANDA LOSS AND SECURITY OF THE STATE. MILITARY, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATTER, CARRIED THE DAY. THEN IN MOOD OF LINGERING DOUBT EO UNCOMMON TO BIAFRANS, COOKEY ASKED HOW I WOULD HAVE DICIDED IF IN HIS SHOES. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT CONTINUITY OF JCA NIGHT FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE ANSWERED THE STATE SECURITY PROBLEM AND I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL SO AS TO REALIZE SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE.

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1969 OCT 25 AM 11:22
WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

SECRET

SECRET

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FUNKHOUSER

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

0 191920Z OCT 69 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2889
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1085

CN: 4445Q
RECD: 306 AM
20 OCT 69

CORRECTED COPY

NODIS

SUBJECT: NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF: NETTLE ONE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1083

1. COMMENTS REFTEL:

A) BONGO, VICE PRESIDENT MEBIEME AND FRENCH ADVISOR DE LA HAUSSAYE WERE PRESENT MEETING FERGUSON-M'BANEFO. COULD NOT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES EXCLUDE BONGO SINCE HE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE SIR LOUIS. SIR LOUIS ADMITTED "ORDER TO OJUKWU" WAS FACT THAT REQUIRED HE COME TO LIBREVILLE.

B) IN VIEW PRESENCE BONGO, MEBIEME AND FRENCH ADVISOR, FERGUSON MADE NO REPEAT NO MENTION CANADIAN PROPOSITION OR BLACK BOXES IN MEETING, BUT LATER CONVEYED SUBSTANCE TO SIR LOUIS PRIVATELY AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

C) FERGUSON CONVEYED SIR LOUIS THAT USG VERY ANNOYED STATEMENTS BY BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVES IN US (BY GRACE OF US) THAT USG NOT REPEAT NOT GOING ALL OUT IN RELIEF EFFORT. FERGUSON STATED IN VIEW OF WEIGHT US CONTRIBUTION, STATEMENTS ILL-TIMED IN-ACCURATE AND HARMFUL TO RELIEF EFFORT. US COULD NOT LET SUCH ASSERTIONS GO UNANSWERED. IN THIS CONNECTION USG MIGHT AT ANY TIME MAKE DECLARATION ON RELIEF AND WOULD IN EFFECT "TELL IT LIKE IT IS" AT THE TIME OF DECLARATION. WE, SAID FERGUSON, HAD REFRAINED FROM SUCH A STEP, UP TO NOW, SINCE OUR ONLY INTEREST WAS TO GET RELIEF IN. M'BANEFO GOT MESSAGE.

D) NOTHING IN CONFERENCE WITH M'BANEFO AND BONGO, AND LATTER IN CONFERENCE M'BANEFO ALONE, WOULD LEAD TO A BELIEF THAT BASIC BIAFRAN POSITION CHANGED, I.E. THEY WANT NO DAY FLIGHTS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

E) BONGO AT BEGINNING CONFERENCE LACKED INFORMATION RELIEF EFFORT, SOURCE OF SUPPORT, ETC. FERGUSON TOOK OCCASION TO FULLY BRIEF ON US ROLE IN RELIEF, INCLUDING SUPPORT OF "ILLEGAL" NIGHT-LIFT. AT END OF CONFERENCE, BONGO URGING USG "BE PATIENT" -- BIAFRANS IN TRAUMA, GIVE THEM TIME, ETC.

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 CORRECTED COPY

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F) WHILE BONGO OBVIOUSLY FRYING OWN FISH VIS-A-VIS US, BONGO SEEMS ANXIOUS GET ACTION AND PLAY REAL ROLE IN RELIEF AS WELL AS PEACE.

G) FROM TRAFFIC LIBREVILLE AIRPORT AND VISITS TO BONGO, OBVIOUS BONGO IN FACT IN MIDDLE OF BOTH HIM AND NYERERE PEACE INITIATIVES.

2. FERGUSON INTENDS SIMPLY BRIEF HOUPHOUET ON USG INITIATIVE IN ACCORD BASIC AGREED POSITION. INTERESTING THAT BONGO KEPT HOUPHOUET EMISSARY COOLING HEELS OUTSIDE DURING DISCUSSION.
FUNKHOUSER
BT

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

O 191855Z OCT 69 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2888
BT

CONTROL: 4415Q
RECD: OCT 19, 1969
5:00 p.m.

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1084

NODIS

NOFORN

FROM FERGUSON

SUBJECT: NETTLE ONE - FIRST ROUND CONCLUSIONS

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 1077 B) LIBREVILLE 1083

1. AFTER TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH SIR LOUIS M'BANEFO SUNDAY IN BONGO'S PRIVATE QUARTERS I CONCLUDE:

A) HIGHLY DOUBTFUL SIR LOUIS WOULD HAVE COME LIBREVILLE WITHOUT BONGO SUMMONS REFTEL A.

B) MEETING IN BONGO PRESENCE NOT ONLY REPRESENTED USEFUL INDOCTRINATION BUT ALSO ASSURED US OF WITNESS AND OF AFRICAN THIRD-PARTY INVOLVEMENT IN SOLUTION RELIEF PROBLEM.

C) BIAFRANS CLEARLY DIRECTED PRESENTATION THEIR CASE TO BONGO WHO LISTENED AS ONE WITH POWER TO CUT THEIR CORD.

D) EXCESS CHAFF AT START DISCUSSION SEEMED TO BE CLEARED AWAY AT END AND BIAFRANS SHOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY REJECTING IT.

F) BIAFRANS MAY ASK FOR TIME OR, IF THEY MEET DEADLINE, MAY ACCEPT ON CONDITION NIGHT FLIGHTS NOT NOT AFFECTED: THIS SEEMS CLEARLY THE STUMBLING BLOCK.

FUNKHOUSER

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Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

4425Q
10-20-69
2:45AM

O 191810Z OCT 69 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2887
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1083

NODIS

SUBJECT: NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF - NETTLE ONE:
FERGUSON DISCUSSION WITH M'BANEFO

REF: A) STATE 17377; B) LIBREVILLE 1077

1. ON RETURN 1100 A.M., OCTOBER 19, FROM QUICK 24-HOUR TOUR GABON ON PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, FERGUSON INFORMED AT AIRPORT THAT MEETING SCHEDULED BONGO RESIDENCE 1130.

2. ON ARRIVAL MET BIAFRA REPRESENTATIVE UGWU AND SIR LOUIS MBANEFO WHO IN RESPONSE BONGO SUMMONY (REF. B) HAD LEFT BIAFRA 0100 FLIGHT VIA SAO TOME.

3. FERGUSON PRESENTATION PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE (REF. A) PROCEDED FORTHWITH IN BONGO'S PRIVATE QUARTERS IN PRESENCE PRESIDENT BONGO; HALF HOUR INTERRUPTION OCCURED WHEN BONGO HEARD JET AIRCRAFT AND ABRUPTLY DEPARTED STATING "THAT'S HOUPHOUET'S MYSTERE", WHICH CARRIED EMISSARY (REFTEL B, PARA 2).

4. PRELIMINARY REACTION SIR LOUIS TO PRESENTATION WAS A) EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION, B) DENIAL OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR JUDGING OFFER, C) COMMITMENT TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO OJUKWU AND CABINET.

5. SIR LOUIS THEREUPON LAUNCHED SERIES OF LEGAL, EMOTIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE PROBES WITH APPARENT PURPOSES OF CONVINCING BONGO OF BIAFRAN CASE, EXPOSING ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVATIONS, SEEKING SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW OFFER.

6. AFTER MUCH FORENSIC DUST HAD OBSCURED GUARANTEE PROPOSAL AS RESULT CHALLENGES BY SIR LOUIS THAT U.S. OFFER WAS A) ONE-SIDED, B) ULTIMATUM, C) MEANINGLESS WITHOUT SANCTIONS, PARTICULARLY MILITARY, D) UNNECESSARY IF US WOULD INCREASE NIGHT FLIGHTS, BONGO BLUNTLY CUT THROUGH TO ESSENTIAL PROBLEM BY STATING THAT GUARANTEED FLIGHTS BY DAY WOULD PERMIT FMG TO ATTACK FLIGHTS BY NIGHT.

7. AFTER FERGUSON EXPLAINED THAT A) US INTEREST SOLELY HUMANITARIAN, B) US REFUSED SUPPLY OR INVOLVE ITSELF IN ARMS FLIGHTS, C) IS PROVIDING OVER THREE-QUARTERS ALL HUMANITARIAN AID IN FOOD, MEDICINE, EQUIPMENT, AIRCRAFT, PILOTS, MONEY, D) FOREGOING GUARANTEE REFERRED EXCLUSIVELY TO SUPPLEMENTAL DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS, E) POLITICAL ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF FMG VIOLATED PROPOSAL WAS US PROBLEM, BUT NO RPT NO MILITARY ACTION POSSIBLE, F) PROPOSAL DESIGNED MEET CONTINUED AND FUNDAMENTAL BIAFRAN DEMAND FOR THIRD PARTY GUARANTEE AND REPRESENTED EXCEPTIONAL AND FAR-REACHING MOVEMENT BY US, OBJECTIONS FROM BIAFRANS AND BONGO WERE SUBDUED. BONGO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT US WOULD VOLUNTEER TO STICK HEAD IN NOOSE WHICH DEPENDENT ON LAGOS GOOD FAITH.

8. BONGO THEN TURNED TO SIR LOUIS AND ASKED POINT-BLANK "WHAT IS CONCLUSION?" "DO YOU ACCEPT DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS?" SIR LOUIS RETREATED TO ORIGINAL POSITION THAT HE APPRECIATED US EFFORTS AND WOULD TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO PRINCIPALS. HE, HOWEVER, OUTLINED LOGISTICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES WHICH FERGUSON'S REQUESTED OCTOBER 22 MIDNIGHT DEADLINE FOR REPLY TO NEROUS, E.G. HIS RETURN TO BIAFRA, SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH OJUKWU AND CABINET FOR FULL CONSIDERATION PROPOSAL, ACTION, AND DELIVERY RESPONSE. BONGO IN ASIDE TO FERGUSON EXPLAINED THAT PATIENCE REQUIRED WHEN DEALING WITH "THOSE IN TRAUMA".

9. FERGUSON SAID ANSWER COULD BE GIVEN TO ONE OF HIS FOUR STAFF CURRENTLY IN BIAFRA. BOTH SIDES THANKED BONGO FOR ORGANIZING MEETING. FERGUSON STRESSED ESSENTIALITY SECRECY VIEW DELICACY OFFER.

FUNKHOUSER

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Department of State

SECRET

TELEGRAM

(10)

O 171815Z OCT 69 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2881
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1077

4220Q

NODIS

OCT 17 7:51 PM 69

NOFORN

FOR U/CF FROM FERGUSON

SUBJECT: NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF-NETTLE ONE - DISCUSSION WITH BONGO

1. DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN AYOUNE THIS MORNING AT 10:00 AM WORD ARRIVED THAT PRESIDENT BONGO WOULD SEE ME IMMEDIATELY. FOR NEXT HOUR AND A HALF I WAS GIVEN FULL SPECTRUM OF BONGO'S VIEWS ON BIAFRAN MATTERS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW: BONGO WAS OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED THAT HIS EXCHANGE WITH OJUKWU HAD BEEN REVEALED TOHPRESS. HE REFERRED TO AFP ARTICLE, DATELINE LIBREVILLE OCTOBER 15 WHICH REPORTED AUTHORIZED GABHDESE SOURCE AS DESCRIBING ACCURATELY: DELEGATION FROM SELASSIE ASKING BONGO TO SERVE AS MEDIATOR WITH OJUKWU; BONGO LETTER DATED OCTOBER 8 ASKING OJUKWU TO SET FORTH HIS CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATION; RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED OCTOBER 15 FROM OJUKWU STATING THAT HE WAS AGREEABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUTHPRECONDITIONS EXCEPT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A CEASEFIRE DURING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS; OJUKWU AGREED TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HE WOULD ALSO WISH TO HAVE THE COUNSEL OF HOUPHOUET; THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT BONGO WAS WILLING TO ASSIST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CONDITION THAT THIS MET WITH THE AGREEMENT OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO AS HEAD OF OAU AND OF HOUPHOUET; PRESIDENT BONGO ADDED THAT HE CONSIDERED AS NULL AND VOID THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED UP TO NOW BY THE OAU AND THAT BERORE ACCOMPANYING OJUKWU, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AGFEED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD START FROM SCRATCH ("REPARTIR A ZERO").

2. BONGO TOLD ME THAT HOUPHOUET WAS SENDING A MINISTERIAL EMISSARY TO LIBREVILLE SUNDAY TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.

3. UPON HEARING OF THE COMPLICATIONS WHICH THREATEN TO PREVENT DR. COOKEY FROM LEAVING THE ENCLAVE, BONGO DICTATED A PERSONAL TELEGRAM TO OJUKWU STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT EITHER

SECRET

COOKEY OR MBANEFO MUST MEET WITH ME IN LIBREVILLE ASAP.

4. BONGO OFFERED ALL FACILITIES INCLUDING HIS CHAIRMANSHIP AND USE OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR DISCUSSIONS OF BIAFRAN SITUATION WITH EMISSARIES OF BOTH OJUKWU AND HOUPHOUET SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19.

5. OTHER DETAILS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW SEPTELS. GP-3

FUNKHOUSER

BT

Wm. Z., Morris (10) NH

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

0 171830Z OCT 69 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2882
BT
S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1078

4173Q

NODIS

OCT 17 4:35 PM 69

NOFORN

FOR U/CF FROM FERGUSON

SUBJECT: NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF-NETTLE ONE - ANCILIARY POINTS IN BONGO CONVERSATION

REF: LIBREVILLE 1077

IN ADDITION POINTS REFTEL BONGO SAID:

A. GOWON COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE TRUSTED TO SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY; FONMIN AYOUNE HAD SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ADDIS WITH GOWON WHICH LATER DISAVOWED; GOWON DID NOT CONTROL OR SPEAK FOR HIS COUNTRY AS DID OJUKWU; IBOS WERE SOLIDLY BEHIND OJUKWU AND WOULD DIE BEFORE ABANDONING FIGHT FOR LIBERTY REGARDLESS COST; REST OF NIGERIA NOW IN PROCESS OF REVERTING TO TRADITIONAL ALLEGIANCE, SOLUTION FOR WHICH WAS CONFEDERATION OF STATES; IBOS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SETTLE FOR LESS THAN INDEPENDENT INTERNAL SECURITY AND UN VOTE.

B. BEST SOLUTIONS FOR SAVING LIVES IN BIAFRA WOULD BE FOR USG PLANES TO UTILIZE LIBREVILLE FOR TRANSPORT OF FOOD AND MEDICINE; FACILITIES COULD BE EASILY EXPANDED ON CRASH BASIS IF REQUIRED.

C. GABON PRIORITIES WERE IDENTICAL WITH USG, THAT IS HUMANITARIAN AND ANTI-COMMUNIST; LAGOS MILITARY VICTORY WOULD SERVE ONLY SOVIETS, ARABS, AND EROSION WESTERN VALUES WEST AFRICA ("ARABS HAVE NO WORD FOR NEGRO EXCEPT SLAVE"); SOVIETS KNOW THAT ARMS AND AID COUNT ("WHEN STOMACH FULL, YOU LISTEN"). USG SHOULD HELP ITS REAL FRIENDS.
GP-3

FUNKHOUSER
BT

SECRET

Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

0 171110Z OCT 69 ZDF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2880
BT
S E C R E T NOFORN LIBREVILLE 1075

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1969 OCT 17 AM 8 05

NODIS

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

SUBJECT: NIGERIA/BIAFRA RELIEF-NETTLE ONE

REF: (A) STATE 174595; (B) PARIS 15996

1. FERGUSON, POPE ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE. SEEING FONMIN AYOUNE NOW, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY AT 11:00 A.M. AWAITING BONGO APPOINTMENT.

2. BIAFRAN REPRESENTATIVE UGWU ADVISED COOKEY REPLIED THIS MORNING TO FERGUSON'S MESSAGE. COOKEY STATED HIS CROWDED SCHEDULE WITH ICRC DELEGATION WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SEE FERGUSON IN LIBREVILLE. HE SUGGESTED AN EMISSARY COME TO OWERRI ON SPECIAL FRENCH RED CROSS FLIGHT TONIGHT, IF FERGUSON HIMSELF NOT ABLE TO VISIT ENCLAVE.

3. URGENT MESSAGE PASSED FOR RELAY TO COOKEY, STATING FERGUSON MEETING NOT POSSIBLE IN ENCLAVE, THAT SUBJECT MATTER HIGHEST PRIORITY, AND IF COOKEY UNABLE TO LEAVE OWERRI, THEN MEETING WITH MBANEFO OR CHIEF SECRETARY AKPAN IN LIBREVILLE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. UGWU NOTED THESE TWO ALSO INVOLVED IN ICRC DISCUSSIONS (THIS IS REASON MBANEFO RUSHED BACK TO ENCLAVE ON OCTOBER 15.)

4. REQUEST U/CF ALSO RELAY ABOVE MESSAGE TO COOKEY THROUGH OTUE FOR GREATER ASSURANCE RAPID DELIVERY.

5. FYI. IF ANSWER FROM OWERRI STILL NEGATIVE ON VISIT BY ANY OF THREE, WILL PLAN FOR DEWEY TO ENTER ENCLAVE BY MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS AND PUT CASE FOR LIBREVILLE MEETING PERSONALLY TO COOKEY. END FYI.

FUNKHOUSER

BT

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Department of State

173779

'69 OCT 14 AM 8:53

TELEGRAM

INDICATE:
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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM
14 Oct 69 00 00z

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ACTION: Amembassy ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

Amembassy LIBREVILLE "

STATE 173778

NODIS

AMBASSADOR HOLD FOR AMBASSADOR FERGUSON

Subj: Nigerian Relief: Nettle One --/Ferguson/Cockey Talking Points

Ref: STATE 173777

1. Ground rules of conversation: (a) absolute secrecy (b) OF speaking for Dept and President.

2. USG considers question of third party guarantees principal block to implementation ICRC daylight flight proposal (a) USG aware that QUOTE certain END QUOTE neutral countries prepared offer observers on planes (b) also aware certain QUOTE black box END QUOTE equipment available to monitor aircraft vicinity Uli.

3. In Washington contacts USG informed that guarantee formula along lines roftol would satisfy Biafran demand third party guarantees.

4. USG wants definitive yes or no from Biafra within

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U/CF:Ferguson	10/12/69	29624	U/CF:Ferguson

CLEARANCES:

AF - Newsom

S/S - Mr. Elliot

S/PC-C.W.Ruser

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ACTION:

X days on formula (a) if yes, President prepared to make statement in context statement on relief (b) if no, USG would feel free to make Biafran position known in accounting to American people (c) on relief matters USG not concerned with political positions parties.

5. USG wants from Biafra assurance that arms carriers will not seek use Uli during daylight relief operations.

6. Summary: USG wants firm Biafran (a) yes or no on guarantee formula -- no bargaining on text possible (b) Biafran assurance no arms flights Uli during relief operations.

END

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AMBASSADOR HOLD FOR AMBASSADOR FERGUSON

SUBJ: Nottle One: Nigerian/Biafran Relief

1. Dept and White House have decided to make last effort break impasse daylight flight proposal. Nigeria/Biafra relief presently blocked on issue Biafran demand third party guarantee.

2. USG at highest level prepared to make statement para. 3 provided USG receives firm assurance Biafra authorities via Cookey that formula satisfies Biafran demand third party guarantee. In prior discussions between Biafran reps. and Ferguson, reps. indicated guarantee formula acceptable if given by USG at high level.

3. Guarantee formula is as follows:

Quote The FMG has assured the USG, as well as the international community, that during the specified daylight hours of ICRC relief flight operations, no hostile military action will be taken against the ICRC relief airlift. The USG understands and

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XXXX S/PC - C.N.Roser

S/S - Mr. XXXXX Eliot

U - Mr. Richardson

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ACTION:

accepts that this undertaking by the FRG as to the inviolability of the ICRC daylight relief flights has been made in good faith. The USG therefore urges the Biafran authorities promptly to permit commencement of such daylight relief flights by the ICRC. END QUOTE

4. Talking points projected Ferguson-Cookey conversations septel.

END

ROGERS

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LDX CHANNEL MESSAGE COVER FORM

MSG. NO. 577

TRANSMITTED BY: RYEN

DATE & TIME:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1970 AUG 10 PM 6 17

2. TO: W.H.

'70 AUG 10 PM 6:21

ORIGINATOR: S/S

4. RECEIVED BY: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

DATE & TIME:

DESCRIPTION: Cable to Libreville

CLASSIFICATION & CONTROLS: LOU

NO. OF PGS: 1 8. PRECEDENCE ASAP 9. VALIDATED BY: RLBrown

DELIVER TO: WHITE HOUSE - Mr. Kissinger

FOR: CLEARANCE XXX

INFORMATION

PER REQUEST

Revised: 9 Jan. 1970

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'70 AUG 10 PM 6:23

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ACTION: Amembassy LIBREVILLE

Please deliver to His Excellency Albert Bernard Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon, on or before August 17 the following. QUOTE The people of the United States of America take pleasure in commemorating this the Tenth Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Gabon. On this occasion their sincere good wishes and assurances of warm friendship, together with my own, are extended to you and to the people of Gabon with the heartfelt desire that through fruitful cooperation we may contribute effectively to the building of a better world and the maintenance of peace. RICHARD NIXON. UNQUOTE.

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL EXT.	APPROVED BY:
S/CPR:MTReardon	7/28/70	21716	Hampton Davis Assistant Chief of Protocol

CLEARANCES:
AF/C - Mr. J. P. Sullivan
AF - Mr. W.B. Carter, Jr.
WHITE HOUSE

P - For info
S/S -

S/S ~~[illegible]~~ Dorham